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Picture PHIL HOUGHTON



BEAUTY OF OARE FROST

Oare marshes resembled a beautiful winter wonderland at the weekend as a heavy frost turned everywhere white.

One of Kent's top photographers, Faversham's Phil Houghton, snapped this remarkable image highlighting the depth of the frost on plant life and the breathtaking landscape.

Little wonder Oare has become such a magnet to walkers.

■ BY NICK AMES

A HUGE influx of visitors to Oare, after it was named a top place for a winter walk, is causing a huge headache for residents.

The surge in those flocking to the picturesque village has left it suffering a parking crisis every weekend.

It comes after it was named as one of the 12 best places in Britain to enjoy a winter walk by a national newspaper.

Now day trippers – many from London – are flooding into the area for a bracing stroll after the write-up in the Sunday Times.

But with no real car park anywhere for miles they have been leaving their vehicles by the side of the local narrow roads.

With little off-street parking for residents it is exacerbating the problem and leaving many locals fuming.

Su Vaught is chair of Oare parish council and said the problem has increased noticeably in recent weeks.

She told Yourswale: "Really there is no car parking in the village other than along the roadside. Where the walk starts alongside the creek there are a couple of spaces and there are also a few at the bird sanctuary near Church Road. But these fill up almost immediately so the roadside is the only place.

"At weekends, many people who live locally are not at work and many homes have no allocated parking space or garage. So they have to park along the road as well. This makes the place packed with cars at weekends.

"It was nice to have the positive publicity, but

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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Missing 'lost treasure' was really a fake

■ BY NICK AMES

A LEGENDARY helmet once thought to have belonged to medieval King Stephen and unearthed in a local church has been exposed as a forgery.

Thanks to the internet a historian based in New York identified the long lost "treasure" as a fake.

King Stephen, who ruled in the 12th century, founded Faversham Abbey and was buried in a grave at the site in 1154 with his wife Matilda by his side.

The site is now part of the grounds of the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School.

He has a long history of association with the town and the relic was uncovered sometime in the centuries after his death.

In February 2006 the Faversham Society published details of it online calling it "one of the town's lost treasures" and bemoaning its absence.

But in the first edition of the year of the group's newsletter members have revealed they have been informed of the helmet's true history.

The statement reads: "We've been told by Peter McNally, who was at Queen Elizabeth School in the 1960s, and now lives in New York, that it is, in fact, a forgery."

Mr McNally said he thinks the helmet is currently among a collection of spurious armour from the Middle Ages, housed at the French Musee de L'Armee in Paris and forms part of its reserve collection – so is not on display to the public.

But the historian was able to spot it while on a trip to see the usually hidden part of the French national arms and armour collection called L'Arsenal.



HISTORIC LINK: King Stephen founded Faversham Abbey in the 12th century

Research into the history of the relic compiled by Mr McNally following his June visit to France has been put together by the Faversham Society. The findings claim it is in fact the work of a man named TM Grimshaw and dates from less than 200 years ago.

According to the study he lived in the mid 19th century and made a living restoring genuine historical military artefacts but also creating authentic looking fakes.

The Faversham Society added members were "most grateful" to Mr McNally for passing on his findings.

The newsletter added, after members complained about the loss of the helmet and called it a lost treasure, "we were wrong".

Interestingly, when the site of the abbey was excavated in 1964 investigators discovered the graves of Stephen, Matilda and their son Eustace were all empty. Conflicting stories suggest either the bones were tossed into Faversham Creek when the abbey was dismantled or they were re-interred within a tomb in the nearby parish church.

Villagers driven to distraction by parking woes

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE
we now have a problem on our hands."

The article praised the Saxon Shore Way as a destination for people looking to experience the English countryside at this time of year.

It was also covered in Yoursware and was greeted with warm approval by tourist bosses and businesses across Faversham.

As well as praising the countryside and the atmosphere, it also applauded the isolated Shipwright's Arms pub, accessible only by footpath and waterway which has been in business for 300 years.

The article read: "The walk; a four-mile loop on the Saxon Shore Way tip-toes out from the Shipwright's Arms right beside Faversham Creek – a wilderness of marsh grass and dykes, busy with winter-holidaying wildfowl.

"Follow it into the cracking little market town of Faversham and maybe take a tour of England's oldest brewery (Shepherd Neame) before departing along West Street.

"Turn right on Davington Hill and keep going until you reach the head of Oare Creek. Bear right along the wharf, where the ropes of the vintage fishing smacks slap happily in the wind."

Ms Vaight added: "What would be great to see is a village car park, but where would it be located and who would pay for it?"

"It would be great if we could get cash from Swale council or Kent County Council. The whole issue is something we as a parish council need to look at.

"But I can't see villagers agreeing to pay for it – especially as its major user would be visitors from elsewhere."

Panto fun continues at the Arden Theatre

FAMILIES can battle the post Christmas blues at the Arden Theatre with a production of panto The Babes in the Wood.

The show runs at the theatre on January 15, 16 and 17. Performances are at 7.30pm, with a matinee on Saturday, January 17, at 2.30pm.

Tickets cost £6 for adults, £4 concessions, and are available from Wyn's Florist, Preston Street, by telephone from Printshop during office hours on 01795 531600, or at www.ardentheatre.co.uk.

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McGuigan jumps back in the ring as promoter

Ex-champ goes back to his roots

■ BY NICK AMES

BOXING legend turned TV pundit Barry McGuigan is back in the fight game as a promoter.

Troy James – a super-featherweight from Coventry – will be the first boxer to carry McGuigan's colours when he gets in the ring in Middlesbrough next Friday, January 23.

And the former world featherweight champion said he intends to attract more fighters to his banner after gaining a coaching award to work with his son Shane.

Mr McGuigan, who lives in Dargate, laid down his gloves before his 30th birthday and has resisted the call to manage and promote for the best part of 20 years. But he has remained high profile with his TV work – even winning celebrity cook-off Hell's Kitchen in 2007.

He told Yoursware: "I took an amateur coaching licence to work with Shane at Aylesham amateur boxing club near Canterbury alongside Great Britain coach Lee Pullen. The training, the gym work, the stuff that made such an impression on me all those years ago and which I grew to love, rekindled my interest.

"I've been retired almost 20 years. In that time I have been writing and talking about box-



Picture: KNP

BOXING CLEVER: Barry McGuigan has resisted the call of the ring for 20 years, but now he's enjoying his return

ing. I have resisted managing and promoting, though many fighters have pleaded with me to work with them. I was too busy. Now is the time. This is a natural progression.

"The objective is to have a stable of fighters and produce champions. I'm negotiating with a number of fighters at the moment. Our first signing, Troy, can really bang.

"I can relate to fighters, having been there myself. I don't want to offend promoters already out there by claiming I can have the type of relationship with fighters that they can't. I

believe I can impart advice to them and get them to believe in themselves and work better. I have my own system and methodology."

McGuigan, born in Ireland, is one of the most popular fighters among UK fans. He won the world title in 1985 beating WBA world champion Eusebio Pedroza of Panama and then defended it against Bernard Taylor of the USA and Danilo Cabrera of the Dominican Republic.

However he lost to American Stevie Cruz on his next outing – his last fight in a career which saw him with 32 wins and three losses.

Review of minor injury treatments

NHS chiefs are looking at ways of GP surgeries treating minor injuries – rather than referring them all to the Faversham Cottage Hospital.

But it says the proposals are not prompted by a need to cut costs – simply a desire to improve clinical quality.

The minor injuries unit at the hospital in Stone Street will continue – but other options are being explored.

A total of 1,080 minor injury patients were treated in the last year with 352 of them being seen by a GP.

An NHS spokesman said: "The reason for this potential change is clinical quality with no financial savings. A minor injuries service has been run from the cottage hospital for several years, in a very small area, and we now need to look at ways of improving that service."

In the meantime the service will continue to run from the cottage hospital until a public consultation is carried out.

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Drink driver banned from the roads

GARY Mullins' generosity backfired on him after buying his colleagues a Christmas beer.

After a heavy drinking session in a Herne Bay pub Mullins realised his company vehicle should be parked outside his home in Faversham.

He came unstuck when CCTV operators spotted his erratic journey home and called traffic cops. As a result, Mullins, 27, of Whitstable Road, Faversham, found himself in front of Canterbury magistrates.

Toyin Kuti, prosecuting, said Mullins' van was seen swerving erratically along Sea Street, Herne Bay, on the wrong side of the road. It narrowly missed two parked cars.

Scott Neilson, defending, said the electrician foreman drove his team to Herne Bay and it was intended one of them would drive him home.

He said: "The driver decided to stay in Herne Bay and Mr Mullins realised the satellite tracker in the van would show it parked in Herne Bay when it was supposed to be outside his house in Faversham."

Magistrates banned Mullins for 28 months and ordered him to do 150 hours unpaid work. He admitted drink driving and was ordered to pay £60 costs.

Explore the area as you walk to a healthier lifestyle

LOOKING to shed those festive pounds? Then a series of Health Walks backed by the NHS could be just the thing you're looking for.

Supported by the Eastern and Coastal NHS Trust, the events are organised for those looking to be more active, cost nothing, and don't need to be booked in advance.

Led by a volunteer, they last between 40 and 90 minutes and are mostly suitable for all.

Julia Wells, Health Walks specialist, said: "These are ideal opportunities to get out and enjoy informal fun, free walks near to home.

Friends

"Better still, they're free to join and a great way of making new friends – as well as improving your health."

The East Kent Health Walk teams support communities in Ashford, Canterbury, Dover, Shepway, Swale and Thanet.

Among the walks will be one today,

■ BY GARETH ARNOLD

Wednesday. Taking place every Wednesday from now until March 4, the walk meets outside Faversham Library on Newton Road at 9.45am for a 10am start. The walk will last approximately 60-75 mins.

There is also a nature walk taking place on Saturday, January 31, which is free to join.

The one-off stroll will last around 90 minutes. Walkers meet at 9.45am for a 10am start. The meeting point is the Faversham branch of Tesco on Crescent Road.

And if that's not enough there are a host of others you can enjoy across Sittingbourne, Canterbury and Sheppey too.

For more information on the Health Walks schemes and details of all the walks and where and when they take place, visit the website www.whi.org.uk/eastkent.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Youth theatre to take up star roles in film project

A SHORT film to be shot in the city later this month will feature members of Canterbury's Marlowe Youth Theatre.

The students from Christ Church University, who are producing the film, visited the group last term, during their Tuesday workshop sessions, and selected the talented youngsters to take part in the project.

The movie short will be shot over five days from January 17 to 21 in the Canterbury area, and will be shown at a number of film festivals across the county.

Help improve your GP service with new survey

PATIENT surveys will be sent to 70,000 people across east Kent by the Department of Health asking how to improve family doctor services.

The survey includes questions to see if GP practices are getting the basics right – whether patients find receptionists helpful, have the option of phone consultations, and how they rate the overall care they receive.

For further details including a copy of the survey see www.gp-patient.co.uk.

A sound investment?

Music store seeks buyer

CANTERBURY'S Zavvi store is to be spared the axe as the troubled chain closes 22 of its branches nationwide.

The firm, which sells music, games and DVDs, called in the administrators Ernst and Young earlier this month.

They have closed 22 out of 114 stores, a move which has cost 178 jobs. The remaining stores will stay open offering discounts of up to 50 per cent while administrators seek a buyer.

It's a Parklife for kids

TODAY sees the opening of Parklife – the new Herne Bay Youth and Children's Centre.

The Parklife building in Williams Street is a new youth centre funded by Kent County Council. Canterbury council aims to make the venue provide children and young people from five to 19 with high-quality leisure facilities, and a place to base clubs and societies.

The centre includes the Poppy Children's Centre for kids up to five-years-old and the Sparks Youth Centre for those aged 13-19.



AGE Concern

NSPCC
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Volunteer today to help our tomorrows

OUR campaign to encourage kind-hearted readers to give their valuable time to help local charity organisations survive, is delivering results.

We launched the Make The Difference campaign in October last year to help some of the most vulnerable people in our society by boosting volunteer numbers.

The situation was so bad, some local branches of major charities faced the danger of closure. And while many are still searching for more helping hands, several have reported increased interest since the start of the campaign.

Now we are renewing our call for YOU to spare as much or as little time as you can to help a charity – the perfect New Year's resolution to put something back into the community this year.

Gill Ball from Age Concern said: "Things have been busy over the Christmas period with volunteers looking for one-off projects to become involved with."

"However, we still have a wide range of volunteering vacancies in the Canterbury,



■ BY YOURCAMPAIGN TEAM

Whitstable, Faversham & Herne Bay areas."

Max Tillings of Children's charity the NSPCC said: "We have had a number of people come forward but we are always looking for more people to come and help us out in any way they can."

Becky Stotesbury from Vinvolved, a charity aimed at increasing the number of young volunteers, said: "Things are great here at Vinvolved. I have had several requests via people reading the newspaper."

But despite the upturn in volunteer numbers, many charities are still desperate for more recruits.

The vast majority of charities rely on fundraisers to keep donations coming in, but there are lots of specific jobs available which will make the most of skills volunteers already have.

Many charities need people with financial skills to manage money, or PR skills to deal with press enquiries.

Administration is another role which is vital to keep things running smoothly, especially in paperwork intensive charities like the Citizen's Advice Bureau.

Manning the phones is vital to organisations like Samaritans, and Age Concern has a wide range of opportunities such as drivers and befrienders.

Volunteer recruiter Gill Ball said: "Like many other charities Age Concern would struggle to survive without the help of their volunteers."

"During Volunteers' Week last year Age Concern England asked their centres to calculate the monetary value of their volunteers, for Herne Bay it would cost over £250,000 per year to pay their volunteers a basic rate of pay."

British Heart Foundation spokesman Louise Whalley said: "Volunteers are absolutely essential to the success of the BHF and play a vital role in raising funds for the charity to help fight heart disease – the UK's single biggest killer."



Click to get involved

WANT to get involved? Want to find out what opportunities are available to you and your valuable spare time?

Then simply log-on to our website to find all the charities involved in our campaign so far.

They will be only too happy to hear from you and talk through the opportunities available. If you mention your professional skills they will be able to let you know if they could deploy them to help provide their valuable service.

It doesn't matter if you have just a couple of hours a week to spare – any time can be used to good effect and help make a real difference to voluntary organisations operating across the area.

For details of the charities involved in the campaign, including contact details, visit our website www.yourswale.co.uk.

And let us know if you become a volunteer so your journey can inspire others to follow your example.

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BOUNTIFUL BAY: Herne Bay has been named as one of Britain's top ten locations for uncovering hidden treasures

Beachcombers are onto a shore thing right here

HERNE Bay is at the forefront of a new beachcombing craze sweeping, or should that be combing, the country.

The town's beach, famous for sharks' teeth fossils and ancient coins, has been named as one of Britain's top ten locations for those attempting to find interesting trinkets uncovered by the tide.

Finds ranging from mammoth tusks to weathered Victorian coins have all been unearthed by keen-eyed treasure hunters, and now the rich pickings have been officially recognised in the national top ten.

The list was compiled by world champion beachcomber Cathy Yow, in association with Qualitycoast.org. The UK's top ten beaches were identified based on safety, accessibility, make-up of the beach, tidal variation and gradient.

Herne Bay Museum and Gallery in William Street is full of myriad treasures discovered on the beach by professionals and amateurs alike.

Canterbury council says it is pleased Herne Bay has been identified as a prime beachcombing location.

Council spokesman Steve James said: "Herne Bay has a rich natural history heritage which captures the imagination of old

■ BY GARETH ARNOLD

and young alike. This makes the town an ideal family destination because it combines relaxation, entertainment and education.

"We're very proud of Herne Bay's natural environment and pleased that it is now coming to the attention of a new generation of appreciative admirers."

Experts from the United Kingdom Fossil Network advise searching the foreshore for fossilised sharks' teeth, which are jet-black, average an inch in length, and are easily differentiated from the paler shingle.

They say a particularly good time to look is after a storm when the action of the waves has churned up the beach, uncovering previously hidden gems.

They also recommend taking a pick, a knife and knee pads.

A spokesman said: "Most fossils you will only need good eyes for. Hammers are not required, however a trowel with a long handle are especially useful."

And the town's popularity as a Victorian bathing resort means there are plenty of old coins to uncover on the beach.

Beachcombers are warned to stay clear of unstable cliffs when fossil-hunting, and to keep an eye on the incoming tide.

yoursware

NEWS IN BRIEF

Charity in tough times

DESPITE the recession taking its toll on many businesses in the town, Whitstable businessman Mike Simmonds of Q'Straint has donated £10,000 to homeless charity Porchlight.

Q'Straint, which manufactures wheelchair and occupant securing systems, has supported Porchlight for the past six years.

Mr Simmonds said: "I feel it is so important for business to give something back to society. Homelessness is visible and can happen to anyone. All it takes are a couple of bad rolls of the dice and it could happen to you or me."

Mike Barrett, Porchlight chief executive said: "The donation is fantastic and the generosity is astounding in this time of financial uncertainty. We cannot thank Mike and Q'Straint enough for the continued support."

Porchlight provides a Kent-wide service of street outreach workers, hostels and other accommodation.

Mystery yacht discovered

A LIFEBOAT crew had a Mary Celeste moment when they discovered a mystery yacht drifting off the coast of Whitstable on Sunday morning.

The crew found the 28-foot long boat while out on an exercise. The cabin was locked and the anchor chain had been thrown overboard, but there was no anchor attached to the end.

The yacht was registered in Medway and is believed to have broken free of its moorings. After investigations, the owner of the vessel was tracked down. They were from Ashford.

Nosh and Knowledge night

EXERCISE your mental muscles at a fund-raising evening for Whitstable Umbrella Community Centre this month.

The centre is holding another of its popular Nosh and Knowledge evenings on Saturday, January 31 at St Mary's Hall in Oxford Street.

Tables can be booked for teams of eight but individuals are also welcome and the ticket price of £5 per person includes a ploughman's supper. Wine will be for sale by the bottle.

Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start and to book a table, or for more information, call the centre on 01227 274880.

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Fronted by former BBC Radio Kent star Julie Maddocks, the first batch of films are already proving a big hit with readers and viewers. Recent films include a look back at the history of the Marlowe Theatre. To view it search the Leisure Channel at www.yourkenttv.co.uk.

If you have an idea, email Julie.Maddocks@kosmedia.co.uk.

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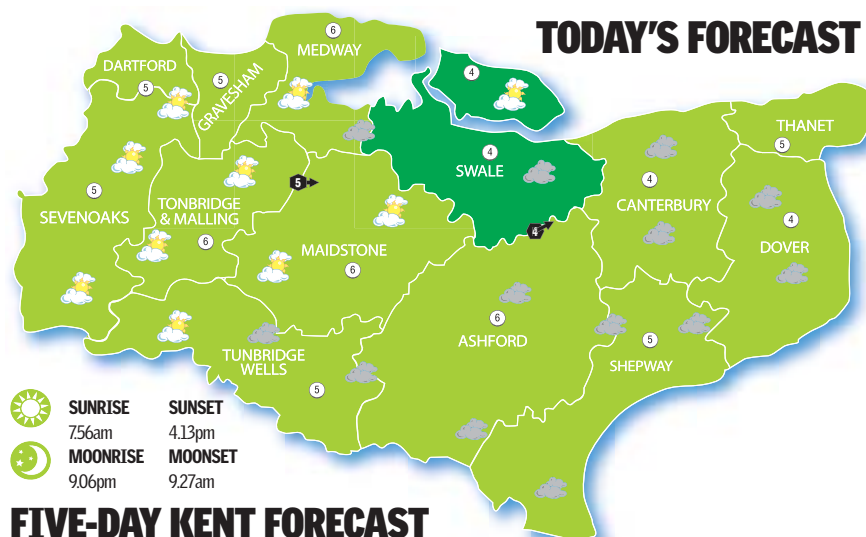


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WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	5:17pm	5.6m
	Sunday	6:05pm	5.3m
Dover	Saturday	3:28pm	6.0m
	Sunday	4:20pm	5.7m
Dungeness	Saturday	3:28pm	6.8m
	Sunday	4:21pm	6.4m
Ramsgate	Saturday	3:58pm	4.5m
	Sunday	4:50pm	4.3m
Sheerness	Saturday	5:06pm	5.4m
	Sunday	5:54pm	5.1m
Whitstable	Saturday	5:12pm	4.9m
	Sunday	5:55pm	4.7m



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	5°C	Madrid	2°C
Athens	9°C	New York	-2°C
Barcelona	9°C	Paris	3°C
Beijing	-2°C	Rome	10°C
Bombay	33°C	Sydney	23°C
Cape Town	27°C	Tenerife	18°C
Cardiff	9°C	Tokyo	7°C
Gibraltar	14°C	Vancouver	5°C
Hong Kong	19°C	Warsaw	-1°C
Las Palmas	17°C	Wellington	18°C

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	10°C	4°C	4°C	7°C	9°C	Gravesend	10°C	5°C	6°C	8°C	10°C
Canterbury	9°C	3°C	3°C	6°C	7°C	Maidstone	10°C	4°C	5°C	8°C	9°C
Chatham	10°C	5°C	5°C	7°C	9°C	Ramsgate	9°C	3°C	3°C	6°C	7°C
Dartford	10°C	5°C	6°C	8°C	10°C	Rochester	10°C	5°C	5°C	7°C	9°C
Dover	8°C	4°C	3°C	6°C	7°C	Sevenoaks	9°C	3°C	4°C	6°C	8°C
Faversham	10°C	5°C	5°C	7°C	9°C	Sittingbourne	10°C	5°C	5°C	7°C	9°C
Folkestone	8°C	4°C	3°C	6°C	7°C	Tonbridge	10°C	6°C	5°C	7°C	9°C
Gillingham	10°C	5°C	5°C	7°C	9°C	Tun Wells	10°C	6°C	5°C	7°C	9°C

yourswale

NEWS IN BRIEF

Survey to target how GP services can be improved

PATIENT surveys are being sent to residents across Swale by the Department of Health seeking their views on how to improve family doctor services.

They are among more than five million patients in England being invited to take part in the Government's third nationwide GP survey, which focuses on their experiences of visiting local doctors.

The results will be used to influence changes to services and rewards for those doctors who provide fast and convenient services.

A similar drive was mounted last year and health chiefs say it brought positive results.

Responses to the 2008 survey have since seen more than half of practices offering extended hours to their patients.

The survey – being conducted locally by the NHS Trust which covers Eastern and Coastal Kent – now includes more questions to find out if GP practices are getting the basics right for their patients.

A trust spokesman said: "This survey will find whether patients find receptionists helpful, have the option of telephone consultations, feel their problem is understood and how they rate the overall care they receive."

"Patients are also asked to rate local out of hours care to ensure health care is easily accessible when patients need it."

"Their answers will continue to set the level of payments made to their GP practice for delivering access to appointments in two working days and for booking appointments in advance."

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QUESTION & ANSWER

JO DYER



Q Tell us a bit about yourself; how did you get into this line of work?

A I'm the director of an arts company in Canterbury called Animate. It's an organisation of artists and performers who create art works and projects in all different art forms for schools and community groups. Our work often includes the public as an audience but also in the process of making pieces.

I can't remember a time when I haven't been drawing or just making things – it started when I was very young. But I got into community arts after training as a theatre designer. I then become really interested in creating theatre sets and installations in non-traditional performance spaces, particularly if they were sensory and interacted directly with the audience. From creating work for schools and other community groups I experienced how art can really inspire people to do new and exciting things in their lives. I got the bug instantly and have been creating community art projects and running art workshops for the past ten years.

Q What is the most enjoyable thing about the work you do with Animate?

A I love collaborating with other people, especially when it includes working alongside other artists and performers. Mixing ideas and working together to create something really magical. And that's when the most enjoyable thing happens... children, adults, audiences and artists fall in love with the experience.

Q What benefits can an active interest in art have for school children? Is it important?

A Art is completely subjective, and with this it allows all of us – and children – to express their feelings and views on the world. Having this freedom and knowing you can take a risk without getting it wrong, gives school children a real confidence boost.

We often take children on a creative journey in our projects and then see how the experience opens up possibilities, provides new skills and builds their self-esteem. It's so important to develop in a fully rounded way, not just about the technical aspects of art practise but also about our self and how we apply ourselves in life.

Q Animate offers a huge variety of different things, is there anything that stands out as being particularly popular? Why is this?

A In the last two years, Animate has been commissioned to create events that bring creativity to sporting activities.

Myself and some Animate artists designed and created Tour du Mini Monde, a cycling track for children to tour a mini world, and also this summer's The Beijing Challenge which was a theatrical, fun obstacle course inspired by Chinese culture in the height of Beijing Olympics fever.

I think the over-sized and It's a Knockout style obstacles made everyone smile and inspired both sporting and art audiences, young and old,

to take part. It was great fun to build and incredibly popular as it toured across Kent festivals and then to many primary school PE lessons.

Q Do you think people are more or less interested in art and culture than they were a decade ago?

A People have always been interested in art and culture – and probably always will. It's another way of expressing ourselves and communicating – I'm sure cavemen were drawing pictures on cave walls as a way of talking to each other and sharing their personal story to future generations. I don't think that principle has changed too much, except we are more sophisticated and have lots of different tools to use and things to say.

In fact, with the speed of modern living, art and culture is completely important in digesting, documenting, enjoying and archiving our lives. There is so much going on in our day-to-day worlds – sometimes we need time to reflect. I don't believe people are less interested now than a decade ago because culture is all about us and everything we do.

Q Are you worried the recession could have an impact on art and theatre as funding dries up?

A It's definitely a difficult time for everybody, but I'm still convinced that art, culture and creative experiences are needed more now than before... we need something to brighten up more depressing times and find creative ways to be more resourceful and problem solve.

Q & A

Gareth Arnold talks to the Animate director about her lifelong passion for creativity, bringing art to schools and communities in the district and society's need for culture and creative expression

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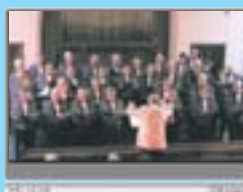




Dog behaviourist Pippa Ducat on puppy training. Search 'puppy'



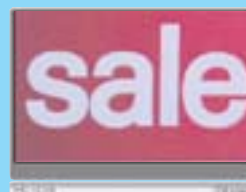
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Kent Police Male Voice Choir's fun version of an old song. Search 'choir'



A replica of the ship Discovery commemorates Kent's links with Virginia. Search 'Discovery'



Surviving the crunch: January sales at a Maidstone furniture retailer. Search 'Clarks'

EDITOR'S CHOICE

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'The Legend' to talk about his Best days as a Hammer

■ BY JON COATES

AN INSPIRATIONAL black footballer will talk about his glory days at West Ham United when he comes to Kent.

Clyde Best, 57, played for the Hammers in their golden age just after England's 1966 World Cup win.

The Bermudian striker pulled on the claret and blue shirt with Upton Park greats Bobby Moore and Geoff Hurst, and plundered 58 goals in 218 games for West Ham in seven seasons between 1969 and 1976.

The heavy-built striker is revered by football fans for breaking down race barriers and has been referred to by other black players as 'The Legend'.

Racist taunts

As one of the first post-Second World War black footballers in English football, Best played amid a culture of racism and hooliganism on the terraces.

He was adored by West Ham fans but suffered constant racial taunts from opposition fans – monkey chanting and the hurling of bananas and peanuts at the pitch.

But his courage and composure in facing racism head on and never letting it get him down has made him an inspiration for many black youngsters now playing professional football.

Best, awarded an MBE in 2006 for services to the game, was due to fly into Britain from Bermuda today to be the special guest of the touring Forever Blowing Bubbles 2 show.

Now he will relive the glory days. At Dartford's Orchard Theatre on Monday, January 19 from 7.45pm, joined by fellow ex-Irons Phil Parkes, Tony Gale and Brian Robson.

In many ways Best broke the mould from an early age, as his build more closely resem-

bled that of a boxer than a typical footballer of the 70s.

He gained his first cap for the Bermudian national team aged just 15 and at 18 was signed for West Ham.

He arrived in East London at the tail end of the Swinging Sixties, with English football on a high after the exploits of new team-mates Moore and Hurst in winning the World Cup.

Best swapped sun-drenched beaches and palm trees for the grey, cold East End, but cherished every moment of his time in this country.

Speaking from his home in Bermuda last week, he said: "They were fantastic days that I will never forget as long as I live.

"I was playing with so many great players during what I consider to be West Ham's golden age.

"Bobby Moore and Geoff Hurst were fantastic players, they were the ones that really won the World Cup for England.

"It was a pleasure to be in their company and play with them, and if I had to do it all again I would not change a thing."

The laid-back Bermudian was a strong and powerful player with the skills of the traditional English centre forward – tough to dispossess when he had the ball and good in the air – so made a quick transition to first-team football within a year of arriving in Britain.

He experienced the worst of racism in football but brushed it aside, saying: "That was there but I was determined not to think about. I had to put it to the back of my mind and concentrate on my job, which was scoring goals.

"I had to think about the people coming after me and set a good example. It is nice to see players from all over the world now playing in England, not just black players, you've also got Brazilians, Argentines and Koreans – that is why it is the beautiful game."

• Tickets for Forever Blowing Bubbles 2 cost £19.50 or £17.50 for the over-60s. For details call the box office on 01322 220000.



INSPIRATION: Ex-West Ham striker Clyde Best in his heyday

Morris dancers on their last legs?

THE quaint and distinctly British custom of Morris dancing will die out within two decades, its custodians have warned.

The Morris Ring fears young people are not taking up the tradition as it's seen as uncool.

But one Kent man is determined to keep the hanky-waving habit alive.

With the average age of those taking part continuing to rise, the Morris Ring fears in 20 years the art will have died out completely from the current estimate of 14,000 dancers nationally.

Charlie Corcoran, the Ring's bagman, said: "It worries me a great deal. Young people are just too embarrassed to take part."

Morris dancing also raises cash for charities. About £600 was presented to Demelza House Children's Hospice just before Christmas by the Woodchurch Morris Men.

Malcolm Triggs, 50, has three sons, Jack, 16, Harry, 11, and Will, nine, are all members of Whitstables' Dead Horse Morris.

Mr Triggs, who is the Squire of East Kent Morris Men, added: "If you go to the festivals, you see lots of youngsters dancing.

"Clearly teenagers don't want to dance in their local shopping centres because they might be seen.

"But they tend to come back in later years."

Late news: Man killed in blaze

AN elderly man has died following a house fire in Sheerness, Isle of Sheppey.

Firefighters were called at 1.36pm yesterday to reports that a blaze had broken out on the ground floor of a two storey property in James Street.

Two fire appliances rushed to the scene and fire crews wore breathing apparatus in an attempt to rescue one man but despite attempts by paramedics to resuscitate him he was pronounced dead at the scene.

The fire was extinguished at 2.44pm. The cause will now be investigated by police but it is not being treated as suspicious. The victim has not yet been named.

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27 Feb – 3 days

Situated between the beautiful South Downs & 5 miles of award winning coastline. The town offers superb theatres, friendly restaurants & fabulous shopping. Oscar Wilde found it such a 'charming town' & wrote 'The Importance of Being Earnest' whilst staying here. Close by is the outstanding countryside of East & West Sussex. Includes 3* Chatsworth Hotel (HB) & 1 full day excursion.

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13 Mar – 4 days

The Eden Project is one of England's most interesting & unusual attractions. Always fascinating, come rain or shine, this is always an absolutely stunning visit. Includes 4* Plymouth Copthorne Hotel (HB), day at leisure in Plymouth, visit to Eden Project.

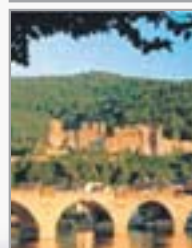


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Wed 14	London Museums	£15
Sun 18	Bruges or Sluis	£30
Wed 21	Holiday On Ice Brighton "Mystery"	£39
Sun 25	London Eye, Lunch & River Cruise	£59
Tue 27	Pussycat Dolls At The O2 Arena	£59

FEBRUARY

Sun 1	Holiday On Ice Brighton "Mystery"	£39
Thu 5	Greenwich Maritime Museum New	£15
Mon 9	Monday Special – Ostend & St Flora	£20
Wed 11	Lunch At Moulin Snick, St Omer	£40
Thu 12	Raf Museum London New	£15
Sat 14	Valentines Love Is In The Air – London Eye & Chocolates	£39
Sun 15	London Eye, Lunch & River Cruise	£59
Tue 17	London Zoo	£29
Wed 18	Kew Gardens Tropical Plants 250th Anniversary	£30
Sat 21	Disneyland® Resort Paris	£65
Tue 24	Imperial War Museum & Ian Fleming Exhibition (James Bond)	£25
Thu 26	Mystery Day	£15
Sat 28	Lakeside or Romford Market	£17

MARCH

Date	Destination	Price (Adult pp)^
Mon 2	Monday Special – Ghent	£20
Wed 4	National Gallery & Picasso Exhibition New	£29
Sat 7	The Secret World Of Bletchley Park New	£29
Sun 8	Crufts Dog Show	£40
Tue 10	Paris In Springtime	£40
Wed 11	Lunch At Moulin Snick, St Omer	£40
Thu 12	Milestones Living History Museum New	£25
Sun 15	Bruges or Sluis	£30
Tue 17	Windsor Lunch Cruise New	£35
Thu 19	Wisley Gardens At Springtime	£25
Sat 21	London Showtime	£54
Sat 21	Hampton Court Floramania New } Ideal gift for Mothers Day	£30
Sun 22	London Eye, Lunch & River Cruise Mothers Day	£59
Sun 22	Classical Spectacular with lunch	£83
Tue 24	Arras	£25
Wed 25	Kew Gardens At Springtime 250th Anniversary	£30
Thu 26	Ideal Home Show	£30
Sat 28	Disney Live – Mickey's Magic Show New	£39
Sat 28	Ideal Home Show	£30
Sun 29	Ideal Home Show	£30
Sun 29	Bruges or Sluis	£30
Tue 31	Thames Lunch Cruise & London New	£40

^ Call for child & senior prices

APRIL

Date	Destination	Price (Adult pp)^
Wed 1	Ideal Home Show	£30
Thu 2	Mystery Day	£15
Sat 4	Chessington	£35
Sun 5	Whipsnade Zoo	£34
Sun 5	London Eye, Lunch & River Cruise	£59
Wed 8	Lille & Euralille	£30
Thu 9	Legoland	£39
Sat 11	Ideal Home Show	£30
Sat 11	Disneyland® Resort Paris	£65
Sun 12	Bruges or Sluis	£30
Mon 13	Thorpe Park	£39
Tues 14	Cambridge or Duxford	£23
Wed 15	Windsor Town	£19
Thu 16	London Museums	£15
Sat 18	London Showtime	£49
Sat 18	Monkey World	£35
Sun 19	London Eye, Lunch & River Cruise	£59
Tues 21	Ghent	£30
Wed 22	River Wey Horse Drawn Boat & Cream Tea	£35
Sat 25	Montreuil Sur Mer	£25
Sun 26	Bruges or Sluis	£30
Tue 28	Maidenhead Lunch Cruise & Henley	£35
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Brace yourselves for the county's next Big Day Out

■ BY NICK AMES

LAST year it proved one of the most popular ticket giveaways the county had ever seen... and now it is to take place again.

The Kent Big Day 2009 will be staged on Saturday, March 28, and see thousands of free tickets to the county's top tourist attractions handed out free to the county's residents.

Now in its third year, organisers Visit Kent, at Kent County Council, last year worked with 130 of the county's many attractions – including castles, historic houses and gardens, steam trains and sports centres to hand out more than 16,000 Big Day Out free tickets to people living in Kent and Medway.

And this year the celebration of the county's tourism and hospitality sector, and the contribution it makes to the local economy, will be even bigger. More cultural and sporting venues will join the ranks of destinations opening their doors to Kent Big Day Out ticket-holders.

Details of exactly where you can go for free have yet to be unveiled, but the free tickets will be available from the Visit Kent website, at www.visitkent.co.uk, and through the county's visitor information centres from March 3.

Last year the Visit Kent website had 16,483 hits on the tickets' launch day – a record number for one day.

Fran Warrington, head of Visit Kent, said: "The feedback we had from attractions and visitors for our 2008 Kent Big Day Out event was excellent. Ninety-three per cent of visitors said they would recommend the attraction they had explored."

"More than 30 per cent of visitors to Kent stay with friends and relatives and rely on their hosts for recommendations of what to do



LET'S EXPLORE: Dover Castle is just one of the attractions to which you could have got free tickets last year

while in the county. So this is encouraging."

KCC cabinet member Kevin Lynes, who has special responsibility for tourism and regeneration, said: "The Kent Big Day Out goes from strength to strength. This event highlights that on our doorstep we have amazing destinations, beautiful gardens and countryside, as well as activity-based attractions for those who like their days out with added adrenaline."

"Kent Big Day Out is good for the local economy, which relies so much on tourism, and it's good for local pride. Last year 98 per cent of Kent Big Day Out visitors said it made them proud to live in our county."

Visit Kent research shows that Kent attracts 45 million visitors every year, producing an economic impact of £2.5 billion and supporting more than 50,000 jobs across the county.

Volunteers who rose to challenge

ST JOHN AMBULANCE volunteers from across the county have been praised after a hectic month that almost overwhelmed the vital support service.

St John Ambulance Kent chiefs praised "dedicated and hard-working volunteers for their professionalism" for efforts in December.

They faced the double-whammy of plunging temperatures and a spate of flu cases, adding strain to regular medical teams and increasing the demand for their help.

December saw its various divisions cover 90 shifts, clocking up a staggering 900 hours of volunteering.

This is in marked contrast to the 2007 figures for December, when 600 hours were completed.

New Year's Eve saw seven ambulances deployed across the county and more than 80 hours were logged throughout the course of the evening, with 54 calls attended.

More than 9,860 miles were travelled by ambulances and volunteers, with 1,139 of those miles driven on New Year's Eve alone.

Steve Walker, operations manager for St John Ambulance Kent, said: "This year has got off to a very busy start for all our members."

"Throughout December the team worked without question and dedicated large amounts of time to supporting the local ambulance service."

Birds feel the freeze

FOR the first time in more than a decade, wildlife groups last week called on countryside users to minimise disturbance to birds during the harsh weather.

The prolonged freezing conditions meant that many birds would have struggled to survive – and some of those that did could still be in a weakened state.

Dr Mark Avery, the RSPB's conservation director, said: "During freezing conditions, disturbance forces the birds to squander their precious energy reserves by taking flight when they need to spend as much time as possible feeding."

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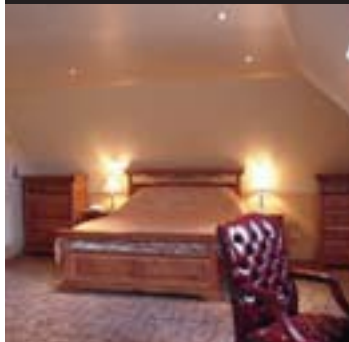
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HANDS UP: Application forms for entry this September into primary school must be submitted by Friday's deadline

Have a hand in deciding where your child goes

TIME is running out for parents of children taking crucial steps in their early education.

Application forms for entry this September into primary school – or for transfer to junior school – have to be submitted by this Friday, January 16.

Failure to do so will mean you potentially lose the choice of school your child will attend.

Applications for admission to primary schools and reception classes apply to children born between September 1, 2004 and August 31, 2005.

Applications for children currently in Year 2 – born between September 1, 2001 and August 31, 2002 – will also need to be submitted for entry into junior school.

Parents have had since November 17 to make their decision as to where they would like their child to attend and can do so in one of two ways.

Either they can complete the forms available from all local primary schools and junior schools and submit them to any of those schools or go online and complete the form there. Details of the web address is below.

All parents have to fill out the Reception Common Application Form (RCAF) for infant schools and a Junior Common Application Form (JCAF) for junior schools. They are asked to choose three schools in order of preference.

Entries received after the 11.59pm dead-

■ BY ED HILL

line on the night of January 16 will be marked late by the Local Education Authority and not given the same priority as those received on time.

Kent County Council, which is responsible for school admissions, advises parents to get hold of the Admissions to Primary School Booklet for their area so they can express a choice. If they don't, the child will only be offered a space at the school closest to the parents' home address.

Schools have been on a charm offensive since November in a bid to secure pupils – while parents have been sifting through prospectuses, attending open evenings and checking the latest Ofsted reports, again all available to view online, to help their decision making process.

Last year more than 96 per cent of children were placed in the state schools chosen by their parents.

Offers of a place will be sent to parents on March 31. Parents and carers then have until April 24 to accept the offer, be placed on a waiting list or appeal against the decision.

For more information go to www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-learning.

To apply online go to – www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools-and-sixth-form/school-admissions/e-admissions.htm.

BREAK TIME

Police put guns and knives on curriculum

AN EDUCATIONAL pack highlighting the dangers of guns and knives will go out to schools across Swale and the rest of Kent.

The Kent police packs aim to keep knife and gun crime down across the county.

Youth crime reduction officer PC Martin Carter said: "In Kent, the numbers of incidents involving guns and knives are low, especially within schools.

"This education package has been produced to help prevent any problems happening in the future.

"It was also developed to encourage classroom discussions on the problems with guns and knives and to highlight the potential severe consequences to those who become involved in this type of violent crime."

The packs include teaching plans, a group exercise with accompanying table and floor games and a DVD film made with the help of Kent police firearms officers.

The lesson materials target three age groups – 10 to 11 year olds, 13 to 14 year olds and 15 year olds.

Kent Police Authority chair Ann Barnes said: "I'm delighted to launch the guns and knives educational programme.

"This is the first time an educational pack of this size and quality has been available for use in schools in the county.

"While the numbers of incidents involving guns and knives are low, we cannot be complacent and ignore the issue.

"It's better to tackle this now to prevent it from becoming a problem.

"I am a teacher myself, and to have lesson plans off the shelf is brilliant. This is something all teachers will be grateful for.

"The package will act as a preventative measure and will help to open the eyes of young people enabling them to make informed decisions.

"We often demonise young people today but instead of that we should be helping them."

Up to 700 schools around the county could now benefit as a result. As well as schools, any group involving young people will be able to use the interactive material.



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yourswaleblogger

Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living in Swale...

Stress therapy is the building block for a life of addiction

A REPORT has been published in a scientific journal which suggests the playing of video game Tetris could help ease traumatic stress.

This report has, I can only assume, got its findings a*se about proverbial face. Tetris causes traumatic stress, no questions asked.

Because, as any fool knows, Tetris has left previously bright, clear-thinking folk, gibbering wrecks. It has ripped apart relationships, destroyed social lives and left penny-pinchers on the verge of poverty.

If you are not familiar with the game let me give you a brief overview. Created in Russia its premise is simple. Shaped blocks fall from the top of the screen, you simply position them as you see fit to create a 'wall' which stretches from one side of the screen to the other to prevent it growing and reaching the top.

That is it. There is no more or less about it. You get more points the higher the wall grows

but it gets no more sophisticated. It is, however, more addictive than cocaine.

You cannot just pick it up and play for two minutes. It eats into your brain and holds you there transfixed. You cannot comprehend how such a simple task can sometimes prove so tricky. So you have another go. And another. And, as it never ends, you finally – and I swear if you are indeed lucky enough to be a Tetris Virgin this is indeed true – end up dreaming about arranging blocks in a particular way.

Little wonder then it is hailed as one of the video game industry's most successful ever games. It even helped the iconic Nintendo Game Boy establish a foothold in the market. And that was back in the day when the machine looked and weighed like a brick and its range of on-screen colours consisted purely of different shades of a sort of greenie-grey.

Tetris' simple interface – or at least that of countless rip-offs – can even be found on the latest so-called 'third generation' games machines; the Playstation 3 and Xbox 360s of

this world. To them, producing the graphics of falling blocks must take about as much effort as an elephant does in passing wind.

Even its irritating theme music went techno back in the 90s and was transformed into a top ten hit single. Bought, one can only assume by those who needed a fix even if lucky enough to still have friends with which to visit a club.

Yet all of this suggests just one thing which the scientists have overlooked. While it may help distract the mind of those exposed to disturbing images under laboratory conditions, I suspect many would rather they had some bad thoughts than embark on a lifelong addiction to this cursed game.

Quite frankly, traumatic stress may, in the long term, be a better thing to have burned into your mind than those ruddy falling bricks.

EDITOR'S NOTE: All blogs are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

GET IN TOUCH...

We want to hear your views



EMAIL: Letters, comments, views (along with your name) to: yoursware@kosmedia.co.uk



TEXT: **SWALE** then your message to: 81800 (please remember to include your name)

LET US KNOW...

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the news editor, **Chris Britcher**, on 01303 817171 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Swale blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the news editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yoursware.co.uk.

Write to The Editor, Yoursware, KoS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

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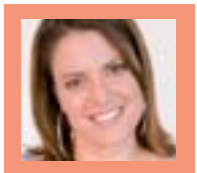
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WOMEN seeking men

YOUNG BUT NOT FOOLISH
Happy-go-lucky 19yr old brunnette, blue eyes, slim, loves meeting new people, WLTm a down-to-earth male for friendship to start but hopefully something more. Box 445285 ②

LOVELY SUSIE
Sensitive, shy and caring lady, 20, loves life and sunsets, beaches, country walks, romantic meals, cinema, WLTm handsome gent to find love with. Box 446323

SINGLE DAD WANTED
Single mum, 23, nice and curvy, 5ft6, blonde, blue eyes, likes shopping, cinema and animals, WLTm an honest and trustworthy male, 28-38. Box 446099 ②

SOCCER FAN SEEKS SOULMATE
Fun to be with blonde female, 25, 5ft2, loves football(!), going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man to be my soulmate. Box 446494 ②

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www.people2people.co.uk/kos.asp

MAYBE MORE

Seeking fun, friendship, maybe more. WLTm fun man 25-30. I'm female, 26, brown hair/blue eyes, average build. Box 445622 ②

DON'T HOLD BACK

Hi, I'm Rebecca, 26, 5ft6, single mum, into film, music, meeting friends and family, looking for a man to share life with. Box 447794 ②

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

Lively female, 26, 5ft2, brown hair, green eyes, size 10, single mum, enjoys most things, seeks genuine, laid-back guy, for fun, friendship and more. Box 442855 ②

SMILES

Hi I'm 27, redhead, 5ft1, blue eyes, intelligent, open-minded, caring, loves going out, music, good goals, seeking friendship and snuggles with caring, understanding gent. Box 446786 ②

HOLD MY HAND

Single mum, 28, looking for LTR. I enjoy cosy nights in, dancing, dining out. I'm 5ft1, short hair, blue eyes. Box 445363 ②

A GOOD HEART

Tall, attractive, good hearted African female, 28yr old, enjoys films, good food and cuddles, wltm a white male for friendship and romance. Box 441654 ②

NO TIMEWASTERS!

Easilygoing female, 32, enjoys shopping, football, eating out, cosy night in, WLTm loving, caring white male 35-47 for long term loving relationship. Box 444214 ②

HORSES FOR COURSES...

Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013 ②

ON THE LOOKOUT FOR LOVE

37yr old female, 2 kids, slim, brown hair and eyes, 5ft2, looking for a caring, loving, honest and trusting male to be my someone special. Box 446552 ②

LOVE TO LOVE YOU

Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium-large-build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 348102 ②

HISTORIC MEETING?

Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693 ②

TRY ME

Ashford based woman looking for a honest, friendly, caring, and loving man. I have 2 kids, and enjoy the usual things in life. Box 446985 ②

SEIZE THE DAY

Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666 ②

MEND A BROKEN HEART

Single mum, 37, fun-loving, been hurt in past, looking for nice, genuine guy for hopeful happiness - no time wasters! Box 908053 ②

DON'T PASS ME BY

Cute, single mum of 4, 38yrs old, Kent based, enjoys most things, looking for friendship or possibly romance. Box 897983 ②

FROM ME TO YOU

Tall leggy brunnette, 38, recently bereaved, enjoy meals out or nights in, dry white wine, a good movie & cuddles, seeking a male for companionship. Box 887404 ②

DON'T LET ME DOWN

Pretty, black female, 38, 5ft4, like football, socialising and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male, 38-42, for a LTR. Box 446684 ②

FUN-LOVING FEMALE

Attractive, 31, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, wltm intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734 ②

CANTERBURY TALE

Single mum of 2, 32, WLTm someone kind, caring and considerate, for nights in/out and cinema. Ryan from Whitstable, please call again, leave contact details! Box 406670 ②

SOUND GOOD?

I'm 35, kind, caring, N/S, enjoy cooking, cinema, music, dining in and out, looking for special someone to enjoy a relationship with. Box 447595 ②

CLOSE ENCOUNTER

Loving, caring, tactile female, 36, 5'8", blonde hair, blue-eyes, n/s, GSOH, likes cinema, bowling, country pubs, nights in/out, seeks male for friendship and LTR. Box 827619 ②

FRIENDSHIP, MAYBE MORE

Social, genuine, honest, single mum, 36, 5ft6. I've got hazel eyes and dark hair, enjoy the cinema, meals out, WLTm sincere, attractive, genuine male. Box 446840 ②

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

Good looking woman, 37, 5ft2, brown hair/eyes, 2 kids. Looking for new friends, and hopefully someone special. Box 446039 ②

BLONDE AMBITION

Bubbly, cuddly, blonde single mum, 38, 5'5", likes cars, reading, pubs, cosy nights in, having a laugh, looking for that right male for LTR. Box 905614 ②

ANIMAL LOVER?

Nurse, 37yrs, 2 kids, 5ft8, blonde hair, blue eyes, likes the gym, cooking, swimming, salsa dancing, looking for kind, caring, loyal male Box 431557 ②

HAPPINESS, THE GREATEST GIFT...

Shy female, 40, 5ft9, blue eyes, short blonde hair, medium build, loves going out, wine and dining, holidays; seeking likewise gentleman to be happy with. Box 446763 ②

NO TIES

Lonely, bored, professional Tunbridge Wells Asian lady, 40, WLTm slim, single, solvent, professional white male 40-50 for company, fun, love and laughter. Box 443573 ②

TOO MUCH TO ASK?

Genuine female, 41, 5'3", brunnette, brown eyes, medium build, enjoys meals out, music etc, seeks male, 38-42, for romance. Box 155275 ②

ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

Hello, I'm Nikki, 41yr young, 5ft1, enjoys dining out, cinema and dancing, seeking a male for friendship, possible romance and fun times. Box 444796 ②

THE HOME LIFE

Happy, caring female, homely, tactile and honest. I'm black African, 41, 5ft2, medium build, and would like LTR with the right person. Box 446024 ②

YOU'LL SMILE IF YOU DIAL

Bubbly 40yr old female, enjoys beaches, pubs, clubs, with a like-minded, caring male to share fun times with. Box 435102 ②

PASSION FOR YOU

Medium build woman, 41, 5ft2, kind, caring, loving and tactile, GSOH, looking to meet a nice man for a LTR. Box 446890 ②

YOUNG AT HEART

Affectionate, tactile bubbly woman, 26, 5'7", blonde, curvy, looking for lasting relationship with 50-58 year old loving man. I can please have a contact number. Box 888680 ②

FANCY A DANCE?

Flirtatious, adventurous, energetic lady, mid 50s, 5ft3, loves all dancing, walks, dogs and films, seeks inspiring male for fun evenings, spoiling and pampering. Hailsham. Box 884712 ②

SOMETHING NEW

Caring female with GSOH, 58, 5ft2, brown hair/eyes, likes beach walks, theatre, holidays and music; WLTm male with GSOH, genuine, for friendship, maybe more. Eastbourne. Box 447662 ②

I HAVE A DREAM

Blonde, bubbly curvy female, 59, looks younger, fun to be with, honest, seeks caring male to be my soulmate. GSOH. Box 883891 ②

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BUBBLY

Brunette, 45, 5ft3, blue eyes, size 18, loves socialising and nights in, looking for a nice, honest and caring gent to share good times with. Box 447642 ②

THE REAL THING

46yr old Princess looking for loving, romantic, faithful, loyal, open-minded knight in shining armour for forever love. Box 883586 ②

IT'S WHAT YOU MAKE OF IT!

44yr old female, blonde hair, 5ft5, slim, easilygoing, enjoy many things in life, looking for someone similar out there to enjoy life with! Box 436810 ②

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?

Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 444366 ②

BE MY FRIEND AND LOVER

Bubbly, caring lady, 47, divorced with 2 teenagers, dark hair, medium build, into cooking, driving, love to talk, laugh and have fun, seeking a normal guy. Box 425952 ②

LIGHTER, THE BEST MEDICINE

Help me write my stand-up comedy routine! I'm 49, you'll need to make me laugh out loud and understand observational comedy to make the grade. Box 892640 ②

JUST IMAGINE

Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easilygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, WLTm genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 893562 ②

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MMS - standard network charges apply.

WHERE R U?

Cheerful, honest, popular blonde, 50yrs old, 5ft2, slim build, looking to find an honest, loyal man. I can please call again/leave contact details. Box 887347 ②

YOU DON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU CALL...

Young, caring, hard working 53yr old living in East Sussex. I am a happy, caring person with a good sense of humour. Non-smoker. Heathfield. Box 883410 ②

SEEING THROUGH THE THYNESS

Attractive female, 35, intelligent, kind, funny, non-smoking, WLTm nice, kind, normal male 50-60, for theatre, laughs and more. Box 446383 ②

ENJOY LIFE

55yr old woman, brown hair/blue eyes, 5ft2. I'm divorced with a grown up family. I enjoy reading, travel, cinema, music, eating out. WLTm caring, genuine male. Box 446798 ②

ATTRACTIVE, Lively & YOUNG AT HEART

Affectionate, tactile bubbly woman, 26, 5'7", blonde, curvy, looking for lasting relationship with 50-58 year old loving man. I can please have a contact number. Box 888680 ②

FANCY A DANCE?

Flirtatious, adventurous, energetic lady, mid 50s, 5ft3, loves all dancing, walks, dogs and films, seeks inspiring male for fun evenings, spoiling and pampering. Hailsham. Box 884712 ②

SOMETHING NEW

Caring female with GSOH, 58, 5ft2, brown hair/eyes, likes beach walks, theatre, holidays and music; WLTm male with GSOH, genuine, for friendship, maybe more. Eastbourne. Box 447662 ②

I HAVE A DREAM

Blonde, bubbly curvy female, 59, looks younger, fun to be with, honest, seeks caring male to be my soulmate. GSOH. Box 883891 ②

SOLVENT

Smartly dressed male, 37, self-employed, seeks female, with good personality, for fun and relationship. Box 181734 ②

MUSIC TO MY EARS

Hi my name's Christine, 57, 5'9", slim build, wear glasses, likes live music, theatre, playing cards, looking for slim build male, for friendship, possible more. Box 419914 ②

CUDDLE UP

Medium-built lady, 62, 5ft3, likes dancing, walking, eating in/out, WLTm a caring and considerate male to stay in with on a cold winter's evening. Box 445123 ②

Men seeking women

THAT'S ME
Kind, loving, fun woman, passionate and considerate with a GSOH. I'm 24, 5ft5, and looking for an attractive female to share interests. Box 445340 ②

FRIENDSHIP, MAYBE MORE

Curvy bi female, 32, seeks like-minded woman, for friendship, hopefully more. Single mum, work part time. Box 886142 ②

ATTRACTIVE, BUBBLY LADY

52yrs, 5ft6, blonde, size 12 enjoys good food/wine, theatre, countryside, holidays, seeking a sincere, genuine female, for friendship first, possibly relationship Box 411413 ②

IS IT ME YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?

Bren, 55, 5ft5, size 14-16, green eyes, animal-loving sagittarius, seeking a butch woman, 40-65, for companionship and friendship. Box 447712 ②

ADD A PHOTO OF YOURSELF

Register your number with us & send by MMS to 07746 738 788. Enter P2P as subject.

MMS - standard network charges apply.

Men seeking women

FOR LOVE

Hard-working male, 29, 5ft10, dark hair, brown eyes, medium build, plays hardball, likes going/leaving out, walks, pubs, loves life, seeking similar happy, trustworthy lady. Box 442752 ②

COOKING UP SOME LOVE

Handsome Indian male, 30, a restaurant owner, seeks female to find companionship with and end loneliness. Box 883458 ②

READ THIS!

Good looking male, 31, from north Kent, looking for a fun relationship with an up-beat female. I enjoy sport, cooking, walks and holidays abroad. Box 883584 ②

NEW ON THE SCENE

Hi it's Pete, 31, hard working, 6ft, dark hair, blue eyes, honest, sincere, looking for fun, friendship and more. Box 447680 ②

YOU NEVER KNOW

A little bit shy 33yr old man, slim, n/s, professional, loves meeting new people, music, films, swimming, walking. Looking for an active woman with gsoh. Box 447820 ②

NON-SMOKING

Separated male, 37, 6ft, slim, good looks, N/S, gsoh, kind, caring, sensual, likes keeping fit, movies, nights in/out; seeks caring, slim, active female for LTR. Box 445729 ②

YOUR TIME IS COMING

Maidstone male, 35, dark blond hair, dark eyes, nice looking, have 1 little girl, own business, varied interests, looking for a fun lady, under 40 Box 429375 ②

R U ME?

Down-to-earth, loyal guy, 36, looking for companionship, leading to a long-term relationship. Enjoys meals out, good company, conversation, cosy evenings in. Box 914917 ②

HAPPINESS IS...

Good-looking male, 36, short spiky brown hair, likes dancing, socialising, films, wltm nice, loyal, honest female, 30-42, for a relationship. Maidstone. Box 401597 ②

SOLVENT

Smartly dressed male, 37, self-employed, seeks female, with good personality, for fun and relationship. Box 181734 ②

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SMART MOVES

Easilygoing, normal bloke, 37, 6'1", looking for good company, friendship and maybe more. Box 400374 ②

JUST A SIMPLE CALL

Outgoing, down-to-earth male, 38, seeks similar female, for friendship, maybe more. Box 400374 ②

MAKE IT A LOVELY DAY

Hi, I'm Carl, 40, GSOH, 6ft, light green eyes, brown hair, looking for a fun, bubbly woman to share laugh, days out and much more. Box 436696 ②

SEARCHING FOR LOVE

Genuine single fella, 41, worked hard all my life now need to find love, seeking loving lady to have loads of fun and more with. Box 884096 ②

EASYGOING

Bubbly black male, 42, cheerful, friendly and kind, likes music, footie and theatre, WLTm a pear shaped female for friendship and more. Box 447661 ②

HONEST AND LOYAL

yourcompetition

WIN Girlie fun with Bride Wars

TO celebrate the release of *Bride Wars* on January 9, we're offering five readers the chance to win a *Bride Wars* Goodie Pack.

Liv (Kate Hudson) and Emma (Anne Hathaway) are best friends who since childhood have planned every detail of their respective weddings.

At the top of their bridal "must have" list: a ceremony at New York's ultimate bridal destination, the Plaza Hotel.

Now, at age 26, they're both about to get married; they're about to realise their dreams; and they're about to live happily ever after. Or maybe not...

When a clerical error causes a clash in dates – they're now to be married on the same day – Liv, Emma and their lifelong friendship are put to the ultimate test.

Liv, a success-

ful lawyer who is used to getting what she wants, including the perfect job and the perfect man, won't settle for anything less than the perfect wedding she has dreamed of for years.

Emma, a schoolteacher who has always been good at taking care of others, but not so much in looking after herself, discovers her inner Bridezilla and comes out swinging when her own dream wedding is imperiled.

Now, the two best friends who'd do anything for each other, find themselves in a no-holds-barred, take-no-prisoners struggle that threatens to erupt into all-out war.

We have teamed up with 20th Century Fox Films Co. Ltd to offer five lucky readers the chance to win the goodie pack which includes a set of Boxing Gloves, a mini mani/pedi set, a notebook and also a quizbook to test your friends.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your e-mail address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to *Bride Wars* Comp, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR. The closing date is January 30, 2009.

Question: When did *Bride Wars* hit the cinema screens?

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If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.



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EMAIL: Email your letters to us at yoursware@kosmedia.co.uk

TALK TIME

RICHARD CARACCIO

Cafe and deli owner of Cucina Caraccio in Canterbury's Palace Street discusses his new outlet.



You've been open just four weeks, how has it been so far?

We are really optimistic about the future. We've had a very good few weeks over Christmas as there have been a lot of people in the city. And we've started to get regular customers who've been back three or four times.

We think every customer is important so we always greet people when they arrive and make sure we say goodbye when they leave.

There is also the novelty factor. It's a new business and people like the open kitchen where they can see the food being prepared and talk to the chef.

Tell us about your food:

Our food is seasonal with an Italian influence. As it's winter we are serving warm things such as soup and warmed sandwiches and desserts which we change frequently. We also do an Italian mezze with meat and cheese or a combination of both. Even our wines and beers are Italian.

How did you end up in catering?

I come from an Italian background; my father was born in Italy and my mother was born in Switzerland, and they were both in catering.

I became a bursar at a local college in 2000, dealing with the catering and accommodation. It was then I started planning to follow the dream of opening a small catering business of my own.

We spent two years looking for premises. There are a lot of chain shops in Canterbury and rent on the high street is expensive so not really ideal for a small business like this one. But we found this last year and everything fell into place and we opened in December.

YOUR LETTERS

Visions and themes of new-look creek



Creek development needs our support

I think not just the town but the whole area should be united in supporting whatever proposals are put forward to ensure Faversham Creek remains a key part of our society.

The area is beautiful and careful manipulation of the area from a commercial point of view should be able to be balanced out with access for all to ensure it remains at the heart of Faversham and, indeed, Swale.

T Gartside
Faversham

There's bound to be some criticism

I suspect finding the balance between pleasing all the people all of the time will be nigh on impossible when it comes to the creek.

This is, after all, an area which if you do nothing will simply drag the town down, and if you redevelop – in any way shape or form – you will be criticised for doing so by some.



COMMENT ONLINE TOO

NOT only can you use email and letters to respond to our stories, don't forget you can comment via our website too.

Beneath most stories on the www.yourswale.co.uk website there is the facility to leave your comments on whatever YOU thought of the online article. To leave your remarks, simply click on the 'Add your comments' link and tell us what you think. And remember, www.yourswale.co.uk is updated daily, bringing you the latest, breaking news from across Faversham, Sittingbourne, Sheerness and all the villages in Swale.

We will include the best on these pages too – ensuring your comments reach the widest possible audience. In addition, if you find your newsagent, supermarket or petrol station runs out of Yoursware before you've picked up your copy, you never need to miss out.

On www.yourswale.co.uk you can access, for free, the full newspaper in our highly-acclaimed e-editions.

I am sure the plans pursued will be for the greater good and I hope everyone appreciates that – even if it doesn't sit particularly well with them initially.

Peter Jones
Oare

Sales are good news for our town

How encouraging it is to hear of positive sales in Faversham dur-



ing such a troubled period.

I fear for our town centre. The loss of Woolworths is a blow, but there appears to be much hope that our range of independent shopkeepers will plug the gap its closure has created.

Faversham has always been a market town. Its very heritage is built on a range of traders dealing in a wide variety of goods. And that is what we need now, more than ever.

Mrs G Wilder
Faversham

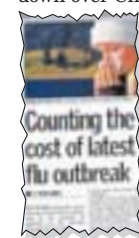
Epidemic was good timing for holiday

I appreciate employers must have lost a few days as staff rang in sick with flu, but surely it couldn't have been better timed?

With so many offices shutting down over Christmas, many

workers will have struggled to get out of bed while effectively on days off. So the employer saved having to shell out wages for sick and absent staff.

Tim Granville
By email



EXCLUSIVE KOS MEDIA READER OFFER

Mediterranean Jewels Rail-Cruise

HIGHLIGHTS: Escorted from London • Return Eurostar & TGV to Marseilles • 10-night cruise aboard the Orient Queen visiting: Genoa & Naples in Italy; Messina in Sicily; Piraeus, Mykonos, Santorini, Patmos & Katakolon in Greece; Kusadasi in Turkey

June 9 to 20 & Sept 7 to 18, 2009

Tour MJ-KOS

Join us for a Rail-Cruise to the best ports on the eastern Mediterranean. Louis Lines' **Orient Queen** weighs 15,781 tonnes and has 364 cabins and 329 crew. On board you will find a casual and friendly atmosphere, warm hospitality and attentive service. The cruise itinerary offers a complete destination experience, combining famous highlights with lesser-known gems.

The holiday starts with an escorted **afternoon** departure on Eurostar from St Pancras International, London. We travel to Lille or Paris where, we break our journey with an overnight stay at a hotel. Early the next morning we join the TGV to Marseilles, arriving early-to-mid afternoon. From here we have a short transfer to the Orient Queen to start our 10-night cruise.

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Sick of skivers who keep taking time off

Is it just me or is everyone getting sick of people being ill? It seems like everyone has been going down with a cough or a sniffle and calling it the flu. So they take three days off, then return, catch the real flu and then have to spend another week off.

Meanwhile, those poor saps who have avoided the bugs or had the jab have been having to see in the New Year with a hugely increased workload. Bah, humbug!

Nicole Peters
By email

Nominate the best learner for an award

The deadline to nominate for Adult Learners' Week Awards is approaching. The awards celebrate the achievements of adult learners.

You can nominate anyone who deserves recognition at www.alw.org.uk/nominate, by emailing alw@niace.org.uk or phoning 0116 2044200. Nominations close at 5pm, Wednesday, January 21.

The awards are the highlight of Adult Learners' Week, co-ordinated by NIACE (National Institute of Adult Continuing Education) the UK's largest and longest running festival of learning (May 9-15, 2009).

Emma Cliffe, assistant campaigns co-ordinator for NIACE, by email.

Government needs to cut train fares

Commuters face above inflation increases in rail fares this year.

Government policy is pushing rail fares up, while the cost of running cars goes down.

As a railway season ticket holder, I am appalled by the recent above-inflation increases in rail fares. These will contribute to traffic congestion and noise and air pollution on our roads.

Government policy is failing to support the railways. Rail fares rose 17 per cent above the rate of inflation from 1997-2007. However, motoring costs declined by eight per cent in real terms 1997-2007. Now petrol prices have dropped, motoring costs will drop even further.

Since the Government has ignored European air pollution legislation, between 12,000 and 24,000 people die of air pollution in the UK each year.

This has prompted the EU Environment Commissioner, Stavros Dimas, to take the UK to the European Court of Justice.

The Government must cut its subsidy to private car use and transfer these resources to the railways to keep fares down and add to new investment. The Government should also cut its subsidy to civil aviation, which is at least £9 billion a year, to boost investment in railways.

Kent's rail lines should all be electrified; the Medway Valley Line and

the Marshlink line (Ashford-Rye) need improving; some closed lines and stations should be re-opened, such as the Western and Eastern Docks stations in Dover.

Dr Hazel Dawe,
chair of Kent Green Party, by email.

Recycling is mobile and it helps charities

When we get a new mobile phone, our old one can often end up gathering dust in a drawer. Statistics show the average person has three unused mobiles they do not need. But what many people do not know is that recycling old mobiles can help raise money for charity.

This is why at World Cancer Research Fund (WCRF) we are urging people to dig out their old mobiles and send them for recycling.

Phones can be recycled in all sorts of ways; eg the plastic can be melted down to make traffic cones or the phone reused in developing countries. For every mobile successfully recycled, £3.50 will be donated to WCRF to help us continue with our valuable cancer prevention work.

This year WCRF were able to invest more than £25,000 towards its cancer research and education programmes as a result of people recycling their phones. Please help us to raise more money this year.

See www.wcrf-uk.org/mobile, email recycling@wcrf.org or telephone 020 73434205 for details.

Paul Fretwell, senior fund-raising manager for World Cancer Research Fund, by email.

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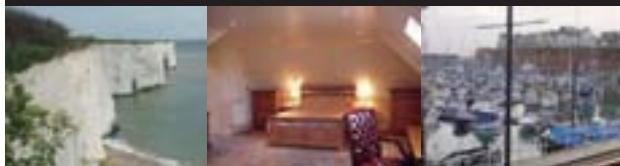
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THE ODD BUNCH: The Circus of Horrors, an outrageous travelling freak show, was originally set up as a 'rock'n'roll alternative circus'

Freak out

The outrageous Circus of Horrors is coming to town

THE CIRCUS OF HORRORS: APOCALYPSE IN THE ASYLUM

Thursday, January 22
Orchard Theatre, Dartford

RUNNING away with the circus will seem less appealing once you have witnessed the Apocalypse In The Asylum.

The latest production from outrageous travelling freak show The Circus of Horrors features pickled zombies, chainsaw-wielding vampires and plenty of hilarious horror.

It is certainly not for the faint-hearted as the show is a real shock to the senses with its assault of rock, mayhem and gory humour.

Apocalypse In The Asylum is described as "a show for weirdos, Goths, freaks and open-minded people who know how to have a good time, know how to laugh but, most importantly, know how to scream!" and is not recommended for those of a nervous disposition.

Audiences with strong stomachs have been enjoying the grotesque antics of The Circus of Horrors since the mid-90s as its blend of humour and horror drags the circus genre, kicking and screaming, into the 21st century.



Despite this modern approach, the show is set in Paris at the end of the 19th century.

With its stage full of burlesque dancers, incredible gymnasts and breathtaking acts, The Circus of Horrors has to be seen to be believed.

The show's beginnings stem from a chance encounter at a funeral in 1994, when the show's 'un-dead ringmaster' Dr Haze met famous circus man Gerry Cottle.

Haze had been born into a circus family and loved performing, but he also discovered a passion for music

and had written his first songs by the age of 16.

At 20 he left the circus to pursue a music career, joining a band called Flash Harry, which then changed its name a number of times over the years. The band moved from its base in Wales to London, performing regularly at The Embassy and supporting artists such as Depeche Mode.

Haze started using illusions, vampire girls and fire-eaters during the gigs, but this was not enough to quench his thirst for a big theatrical project. With his extensive experience, Haze felt sure Cottle was the man to help him realise his dream – to produce a "rock'n'roll alternative circus" that Haze could take to audiences around the country.

The Circus of Horrors premiered at the Glastonbury Festival in 1995 and was an immediate hit. By the end of that year, Haze was receiving offers to take the show abroad and the circus's early tours included trips to Germany and South America.

In London, it played at Camden's Roundhouse for 19 weeks, the longest a circus had stayed in one venue in the capital for more than 100 years. Since then, there has been no stopping this bizarre celebration of the weird and the wonderful.

The show, which is rated PG, starts at 7.45pm. Tickets are priced from £17 to £26 plus booking fee. Call the box office on 01322 220000, or book online at www.orchardtheatre.co.uk.

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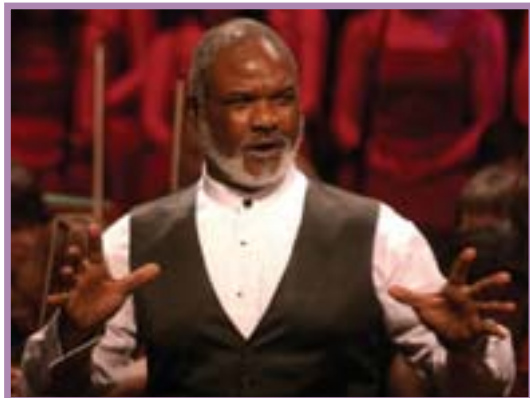
AN EVENING WITH WILLARD WHITE

Wednesday, January 21
Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury

THE songs of Paul Robeson will be performed by the mesmerising Sir Willard White next week.

As well delving into Robeson's repertoire, he will also be exploring the life of the man who was a major figure in the fight for equality. Robeson raised awareness of human rights in the mid 20th century and his moving story is still relevant to today's world.

Born in Princeton, New Jersey, Robeson was the son of a former slave. He studied law and was also a gifted singer, actor and athlete. He went on to find fame as an actor, as well as being a civil rights activist.



Sir Willard will be accompanied by a group of outstanding musicians, led by Neal Thornton and including Guy Barker on trumpet. They will be joined by the Pavão String Quartet as they play tailor-made arrangements of some of

Robeson's more popular songs.

The performance starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £24.50/£22.50.

To book call the box office on 01227 787787 or visit the website at www.marlowe-theatre.com.



THE MOMERATHS

Saturday, January 17
Orange Street Music Venue, Canterbury

FIND your way to a great gig when The Momeraths visit Canterbury.

Described by the national press as "quite a find", the quirky band is named after small fuzzy creatures featured in the fantastical tale,

Alice In Wonderland. The fictional creatures clustered together to form an arrow and all the signs are pointing towards this being a treat for music fans.

The five-piece pop band has created a sound that is fresh and unique, mixing a fun fusion of country-folk and tangy guitar with some keyboard-synth electricity. With both male and female vocals, The Momeraths have

a catchy sound that gets people dancing.

Their influences include a dizzying array of artists and other sources, such as Belle and Sebastian, Button Moon, Joni Mitchell, the Beach Boys, Bob Dylan and even their namesakes' creator, author Lewis Carroll.

Hear tracks and find out more about them at www.myspace.com/wherethemomeraths.

THE BITTERSWEETS

Monday, January 19
Zebra Bar, Maidstone

TWO duos bring music from very different parts of America to a Maidstone audience next week.

The Bittersweets, based in Nashville, live up to their name with their captivating sound that blends hope and poignancy. Fusing sunshine and melancholy with evocative lyrics, wonderful melodies and alluring vocals, the duo capture life's ups and downs in their honest songs.

Chris Meyers and Hannah Prater both play guitar and sing, while Meyers also plays keyboards. Their skill at exploring both the highs and lows of life is evident in their 2006 full-length debut *The Life You Always Wanted*, their recent live set *Long Way From Home* and new album *Goodnight*, San Francisco.



Starting out as 'singing puppeteers' during their childhood, twin sisters Sarah and Claire Bowman are now popular performers on the New York City music scene.

As kids they recorded their first album on a tape

recorder. Now both sisters are recognised musicians and vocalists, putting their almost telepathic musical bond to good use.

The show starts at 8pm and tickets cost £12 in advance or £14 on the door. To book call 01622 744481.

SWALE LEISURE

Blackheart to perform for fans of folk music

THE New Year gets off to a great start with Blackheart at the Folk Club.

Blending folk, country, rock and classical influences, the duo's debut album *Indigo* earned them critical acclaim. Blackheart will be at the Chimney Boy in Preston Street at 8.30pm next Wednesday. Tickets cost £6 for club members and £7 for non-members. See www.favershamfolkclub.net for details.

Track your way around this model exhibition

THE City of Canterbury Model Railway Society is holding its annual exhibition.

Visitors can see layouts and buy supplies at St Anselm's School in Old Dover Road. The show opens from 10am to 5pm on Saturday and 10am to 4.30pm on Sunday. Admission costs £4/£3 for adults, £2.50 for children over five and £11 for families. For more details visit the website www.ccmrs.ic24.net.

Punk band promise not to Sabotage the hits

FOR a great night of live music, catch Sabotage performing live in Canterbury.

The five-piece band plays a variety of classic pop/punk, indie and rock hits from artists as diverse as Foo Fighters and Tom Petty. Find out more about them at www.sabotagetheband.uni.cc.

Sabotage will be playing at Casey's Ale House in Butchery Lane on Friday. For details call the pub on 01227 463252.

Take up a new hobby and help a charity too

ANYONE looking for a new hobby should throw themselves out of a plane.

The stunt will be in the name of charity, as Breakthrough Breast Cancer is offering people the chance to raise money by taking part in a sponsored parachute jump when you raise £395. Participants who raise £550 or more will receive a holiday voucher. See www.breakthrough.org.uk/skydive or call 0207 0252426.

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SWALE SHOPPING

Dive in to luxurious pampering at the spa

MAKE a resolution to pamper yourself this year at Hempstead House Hotel's new health spa and fitness suite.

The Sittingbourne hotel has undertaken a multi-million pound extension to create AquaManda, a state of the art facility that boasts a beauty treatment suite, gym, swimming pools, Jacuzzi, steam room, sauna and fitness studio.

AquaManda launched last weekend and is open to new members. See www.hempsteadhousehotel.co.uk for details.

Salute a menu packed with healthy good food

HEALTHY eating does not have to be boring now Zizzi has introduced its new 'menu della salute'.

Priced at £9.95 for three courses, the menu offers dishes such as spaghetti pomodoro, risotto funghi and insalata classica – which, according to the Italian restaurant chain, are 'healthy and hearty' with an emphasis on flavour.

The menu is available until February 28. Zizzi restaurants can be found in Canterbury and Whitstable.

Book in for 100 great reads in your pocket

READ up on 100 of literature's classics from the comfort of your handheld games machine – thanks to the latest 'game' for the Nintendo DS.

The 100 Classic Book Collection brings the likes of Jules Verne, the Brontës and Charles Dickens together – for £19.99. To read the books simply turn the DS on its side and you have a portable book collection. The software is backed by publisher HarperCollins and is available to buy today.

Savings will help you compute the new year

NEEDING a bit of computer power to get your new year off to a flying start? Then why not check out the PC World sale?

The firm has slashed prices on laptops, office equipment, video games and accessories as part of its January stock clearance.

Laptops can now be snapped up for £250, top-selling video games are 40 per cent off, and you can even buy some software packages for less than 50p.

Offers are at www.pcworld.co.uk.

Paint by numbers for stunning film star eyes

FOR sultry film star eyes, check out the latest collection of eye shadows from L'Oréal Paris.

The cosmetics company has launched three ColorAppeal Trio Pro Star Secrets Crystals, each one named after a famous beauty.

The numbered shadows are applied in three stages to achieve the perfect look. Priced at £6.99, the products are available from Boots, Superdrug and major supermarkets.



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YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETTS

RELOCATION, RELOCATION
Channel 4, 8pm, Tuesday
CELEBRITY BIG BROTHER
Channel 4, 9pm, week nights

THERE'S something addictive about horrible people looking at nice houses. As property prices tumble in light of the credit crunch it seems odd this genre of programming still booms.

It is rarely the houses are the stars of these shows, though – it's those searching for their dream homes.

With shows such as Relocation, Relocation – the spin-off of Location, Location, Location – it is the relationship of the couples that intrigues far more than the bricks and mortar.

More often than not it serves a reason for a maniacal woman to boss around the hen-pecked man in her life – a great showcase for remaining single if ever there were one.

I'd kill to be a fly on the wall when the cameras stop rolling as at some point the pair must surely realise that, for 250K, they perhaps won't be picking up the modern equivalent of Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater.

But it is not just the strained house-hunters' relationships that crackle in the glow of the limelight.

The back-and-forth between hosts Kirsty Allsopp and Phil Spencer nips along nicely, leading some to believe they are in fact an item.

As a point of clarification, they're not, but if someone could bottle the sexual tension between this pair then they could well solve the energy crisis.

After Relocation, Relocation has ended and Boredom Boredom has set in, Big Brother is back, in super-duper celebrity form... again.

Despite the controversy which saw it shelved last year, CBB is still hanging in there, racking up the ratings other shows would kill for.



LITTLE GEM: Verne Troyer looks a good bet to win the latest Celebrity Big Brother series

It looks like it's going to take a miracle to stop the diminutive Austin Powers Mini-Me, Verne Troyer, from cosying up to the winner's publicity, such is the level of competition he's facing.

A member of a boy-band who were never that big the first time around, a faded rapper and Ulrika Jonsson, now more famous for copping off with Sven Goran Eriksson than, er, reading the weather.

Even among those people who care about Big Brother, the buzz has long since vanished, and fingers crossed, Channel 4 will drop the reality show standard-bearer after the end of the next series proper, which will start in earnest this summer.

We can only hope.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

A **FITNESS** regimen comes to a satisfying conclusion. You could finally reach your desired weight or gotten your cholesterol under control. Give yourself a reward. Of course, you can't afford to slack off now. You need to keep working to maintain these results.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

YOU may feel a little sensitive about your educational background. While it's true some of your rivals have better schooling, they lack your common sense approach. Keep this in mind the next time you have to promote your agenda. A respected teacher could offer their support.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

YOU'RE finally moving past a difficult period of seclusion when you learned a lot about your strengths and weaknesses. Use this knowledge to overcome a destructive habit. Gaining this new level of control will put you in line for a very lucrative job.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

AN academic degree, publishing contract, or legal decision could be awarded to you. You've worked long and hard to get to this point. Revising some domestic arrangements will improve family relationships. Allocate jobs according to people's ability.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

AN artistic project comes to fruition, and you couldn't be happier with the results. A respected expert could single you out for favourable attention. Take their words to heart, as they are utterly sincere. Pay no attention to self doubt that comes bubbling to the surface.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 21)

PAYMENT for a job done some weeks ago could finally reach you. Resist the temptation to spend it all in one shopping spree. By putting a portion toward a home purchase you'll get good value for your labour. Revisiting beliefs you held as a youngster could be illuminating.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

A GROUP project finally comes to a close. Fortunately, your stellar efforts will be singled out for favourable attention. Don't be surprised if you're offered a plum position as a result of this job. Fortunately, you have plenty of experience in this realm.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

AT long last, you're able to move past intense public scrutiny. Take this opportunity to pursue stalled plans concerning your career. This is a rare opportunity to leave an unhealthy situation behind, for once and for all. Don't listen to people who issue all sorts of dire warnings.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

WORRYING about the future is a waste of time. You've got to put your best foot forward and go back to work. Fortunately, there is plenty to be done. By submerging yourself at work, your fears will abate. Seize the reins of leadership with regard to a career opportunity.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

THE results of a self-improvement programme are evident to everyone. Go ahead and treat yourself to a flattering outfit or makeover. It may be necessary to revise a retirement or college fund. Taking a more aggressive approach will help you keep pace with inflation.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

SUBMITTING your creative efforts for review will pay off. Yes, some of your work may not be understood, but the majority of your efforts will be lauded. Let this inspire you to return to a favourite hobby from childhood. A respected family member has valuable advice.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

A CLOSE relationship gives you the strength you need to venture into the unknown. Lean on a romantic partner or close colleague if your courage starts to flag. They'll give you all the encouragement you need to go back to school, fight a legal dispute, or publish a book.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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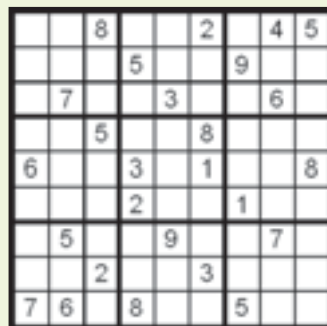
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No70

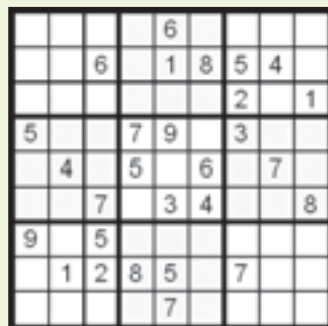
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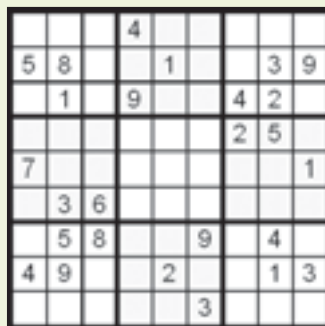
EASY



MEDIUM



HARD



CRYPTIC CLUES

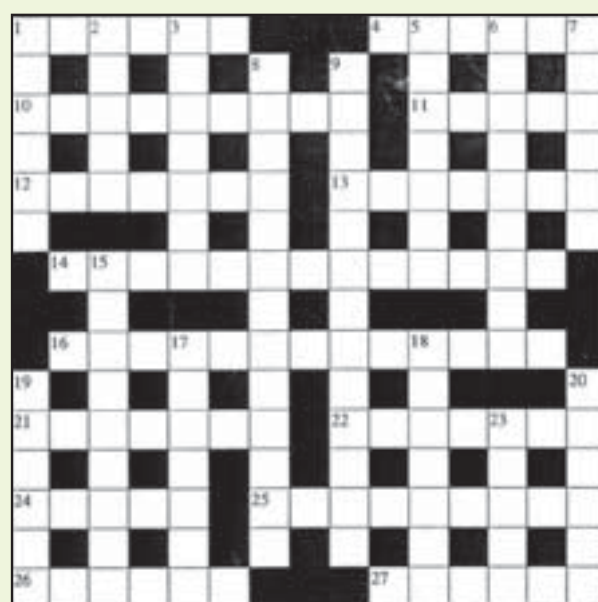
ACROSS

- 1 Lean chorister's part to fix firmly (6)
- 4 When leaving mountains small group appears (6)
- 10 Practical joke having prize share returned (5-4)
- 11 Natural ability of leading lady in exhibition (5)
- 12 Dupe saw pact disintegrate (4-3)
- 13 Civic head, he's struggling in Isle of Wight during skating exhibition (3-4)
- 14 Cancel erratic movement despite strong opposition (13)
- 16 Officer had shortened instrument used with this type of punishment (5-8)
- 21 A beginner replacing quoit of an exact divisor (7)
- 22 Royal individual with one insignia (7)
- 24 Pleased name had been included for part of the body (5)
- 25 I assume it is fertiliser inside from dinosaur! (9)
- 26 In the index empty and free from liability (6)
- 27 They leave the trip first being sprightly (6)

DOWN

- 1 Went round by a cab to head monk's office (6)
- 2 Power strike (5)
- 3 State capital games site originally (7)
- 5 Great king had a lady (7)
- 6 Tea for three dance (3-3-3)
- 7 Scattered, indefinite number of trews scattered first (6)
- 8 Know practical way to prepare starter (5,8)
- 9 Only a bit of a party! (8,5)
- 15 I created a diversion to root out (9)
- 17 Informed about crazy cup duel (5-2)
- 18 Alternatively Georgia included a New Zealand dress fabric (7)
- 19 In tartan Glen found web (6)
- 20 I got into vehicle with disheartened lady in a conceited way (6)
- 23 Left port weighed down (5)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Obsession (6)
- 4 Out-of-date (3-3)
- 10 Translate (9)
- 11 Fashion (5)
- 12 African river (7)
- 13 Provisional (7)
- 14 Piece of gymnastic apparatus (8-5)
- 16 Aeroplanes forward thrust (3-10)
- 21 As great (anag.) (4-3)
- 22 Nuclear device (7)
- 24 Subcontinent (5)
- 25 Be a typical example (9)
- 26 Corrigenda (6)
- 27 Introduce carefully and deliberately (4,2)

DOWN

- 1 Decorative band (6)
- 2 Carved pole (5)
- 3 Dreamlike (7)
- 5 Enclave of South Africa (7)
- 6 Magic words (3-6)
- 7 Hamlet (anag.), lady's name (6)
- 8 Raw egg with condiments (7-6)
- 9 Four musicians (6,7)
- 15 ___ the Great (9)
- 17 Colourful parade (7)
- 18 Wash hair (7)
- 19 Discard (6)
- 20 Coloured pencil (6)
- 23 Artifice (5)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No69

EASY



MEDIUM



HARD



Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No69

ACROSS: 8 Decrypted 9 Morag 10 Jobcentre 11 Cheer 12 Pulling the plug 15 Part 17 Delve 19 Zest 21 Kick in the pants 23 Nadir 24 Astronaut 26 Oxlip 27 Accessory. DOWN: 1 Recoup 2 Bracelet 3 Open mind 4 Weir 5 Smacker 6 True-blue 7 Aggregate 13 Gulch 14 Spoken for 16 Rochdale 18 Exporter 19 Zaniness 20 Disrupt 22 Squirt 25 Sock.

QUICK SOLUTION No70

ACROSS: 1 Felish 4 Old-hat 10 Interpret 11 Style 12 Zambesi 13 Interim 14 Waiting-horse 16 Jet-propulsion 21 Tear-gas 22 Reactor 24 India 25 Exemplify 26 Errata 27 Work in. DOWN: 1 Frieze 2 Tolem 3 Surreal 5 Lesotho 6 Hey-presto 7 Thelma 8 Prairie-oyster 9 String quartet 15 Alexander 17 Pageant 18 Shampoo 19 Strife 20 Crayon 23 Trick.



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ON GENERAL RELEASE

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (15)



Arrested on suspicion of cheating in a television quiz, orphan Jamal Malik tells the story of how his life on the streets provided him with each of the answers necessary to win.

BRIDE WARS (PG)



Two friends have dreamed of their fairytale wedding since they were ten. Now their weddings have been double-booked and each must go the extra mile to stop her 'best' friend's special day.

THE READER (15)



A dramatic love story set in post-war Germany. Michael, a law student, and nurse Hanna embark on a secret affair. But when Hanna disappears, Michael fears that he may never see her again.

Actor with revolutionary interest in the underdog

BY SHEREEN LOW

BENICIO Del Toro must surely be one of the most modest actors in Hollywood.

The Puerto Rican star picked up an Oscar for best supporting actor for his role in *Traffic* and he was nominated again in 2003 for his turn in *21 Grams*.

He is already receiving heavy buzz for his portrayal of revolutionary leader Che Guevara in *Che*, a film that has so far won him best actor at the 61st Cannes Film Festival and reunited him with his *Traffic* colleagues – director Steven Soderbergh and producer Laura Bickford.

Yet he prefers to blow off any talk of awards, saying: "I just got lucky. My guess [about the forthcoming awards] is as good as yours."

The 41-year-old says it was sheer good luck that led to his involvement in the two-part biopic, which he also co-produced.

"Why did I have to play him? I don't know," Benicio admits. "I thought this could be an interesting story – it's got so many dimensions. I've always been a fan of underdogs, and I think, in a way, he was an underdog."

"There's something about that I've been attracted to. I don't know why. And I think Che had elements of it. He never really quit. In the end, he's like an underdog and, for me, the fact he was executed kind of also put a flame that this story should be told."

And he insists he is merely portraying his idea of Che: "I'm making an interpretation as other actors can make an interpretation of him. So it's Benicio Del Toro doing interpretations of moments of Che Guevara – it's my interpretation of this character."

While admitting his preparation to play the



MODEST: Benicio Del Toro is not expecting any awards

Argentine Marxist guerrilla leader was exhausting, Benicio claims he didn't feel added pressure to portray him in the 'right' way.

"The process of playing Che was very different for me than other movies I have made," he says. "I like to quote what Steven said to me – I was like a deer in headlights. He said 'It's impossible to play him or to do this film, but we'll try'. And that was very liberating."

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Even so, the filming schedule was a challenge for the seasoned actor.

"It was long and exhausting and we shot in five different countries. So it was like a touring band who was moving from Spain to Puerto Rico to New York to Mexico to Bolivia," Benicio recalls with a grimace.

He drew strength from interest in the figure.

"Every time I went south of New York City, for years before we even shot anything, people would come up and say 'Oh, a Che Guevara movie. It's great!' – like they had already seen it," he says.

"The movie was basically taking over in a way. We had to find a way to do it. So the movie kind of like was already in motion before we even stepped on the gas. That added pressure."

CHE – PART 1
Certificate 15



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PROPERTY NEWS

HIPs to be flooded with yet more house data

CONTROVERSIAL Home Information Packs are to face further changes this year as the Government increases the information which needs to be provided.

A new property information questionnaire will be included with flood risk information, gas and electricity safety, service charges, structural damage and parking arrangements.

From April 6, HIPs must also be provided on the first day of marketing a home – and not after 28 days, as current regulations stand.

The Government claims the changes will place no further burden on estate agents and the packs have not caused a slowdown in the housing market.

New green belt worries in push for development

A ROW has erupted over plans for a dramatic shake-up of the Government's rural planning policy.

Reports suggest that villages across England will come under threat as policy is changed to allow the Government to deliver on its pledge to build 3 million homes by 2020.

And the crunch issue will be giving landowners and farmers incentives to sell land for development – fuelling fears that the erosion of greenbelt land will no longer be seen as an important issue.

Housing Secretary Margaret Beckett is tipped to announce the reforms later this month, but they have already been criticised by countryside protection groups.

Don't be so quick to repossess, urges boffin

HOLDING back repossessions is critical for the health of the UK property market, according to a leading expert in the field.

Speaking at the launch of the UK Housing Review 2008/09, Steve Wilcox from the University of York explained that mortgage rescue plans from the Government were important but holding back repossessions was needed.

"Forbearance is far more critical than mortgage rescue," Professor Wilcox said.

"If there is a flood of repossessions, this will depress the property market further and put off recovery even longer."



MAKING WAVES: The current economic gloom means house prices are likely to continue to sink; however, it is expected that a levelling-off point is just around the corner

Market needs a lifeline as prices drop further

■ BY NICK AMES

The number of mortgages approved for house purchases sank to just 17,773 in November from 20,767 in October, according to the British Bankers' Association, making it the lowest since the BBA began compiling the figures in 1997.

Cautious

Simon Rubinsohn, chief economist at RICS, said: "Lenders are likely to remain cautious in the near term in the absence of any 'guarantees' on mortgage-backed securities.

"This, coupled with an increasingly gloomy economic picture, suggests house prices will continue to decline in 2009."

The organisation also warned that the number of new homes in England will fall short of Government targets after dwindling to fewer than 110,000 in 2008.

According to RICS, the level of house-building in 2008 was lower than in the recession of the early 90s and is set to worsen throughout 2009, with construction expected to begin on fewer than 80,000 homes.

It warned this supply shortage would leave the industry way behind the Government's plans to build 2 million new homes by 2016 and could further worsen the housing market once the downturn eases.

Mr Rubinsohn said: "A major concern is the massive reduction in the number of new homes now being built.

"It is likely there will be even fewer new starts in 2009, leading to a very real risk that a serious housing shortage will fuel another bout of volatility once the current crisis eases.

"Crucially, the policies are not yet in place to create a vibrant but sustainable housing market in the future."

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MOTORS NEWS



Peugeot mega sale at Robins & Day dealers

BRITAIN'S biggest Peugeot dealer group, Robins & Day, is staging a huge New Year sale of delivery mileage '58 plate cars.

Amongst deals at Kent sites – Canterbury, Maidstone and Rochester – is the limited edition Peugeot Monaco 207 (from £8,995 and pictured) exclusive to Robins & Day. The three/five-door Monaco comes with stitched leather seats, air con and remote control CD player and discounts of more than £2,000.

There are other deals on many models, with savings of up to £6,412.



Fiesta sparks a strong 2008 finish for Ford

STRONG consumer demand for Ford's renewed product line-up has further boosted the UK number one brand's market share.

The company finished 2008 strongly with 16.7 per cent of the December market – up from December 2007's 15.8 per cent – with the new generation Ford Fiesta ousting the bigger Ford Focus as Britain's favourite car.

But the Focus retained its crown as UK's best-seller for a 10th successive year while Ford also grew its market share marginally by 15.1 per cent against 2007.



Seat 'Revolution' now spreading to finance

SEAT has followed up on its Revolution discounts campaign by offering credit crunch busting finance deals and Personal Contract Purchase (PCP) plans for cash-strapped motorists.

These include zero per cent HP deals on specific three and five-door Ibiza superminis (pictured) as well as certain used cars at dealerships.

The deals follow offers that deliver higher spec packages and savings of up to £5,110 against rivals and discounts of up to £2,000 off Seat's own list prices.



ONE TOUGH CUSTOMER: The second generation Terios continues where the old car left off, with a hardy and rugged character that belies its modest cost and a high driving position

Rugged Terios offers cheap 4x4 for users in 'real world'

THERE is a suspicion that people who buy budget 4x4s are more likely to use the off-road ability than more numerous image-conscious owners of big 'Chelsea Tractor' models.

And their lighter weight, combined with decent ground clearance, means that rugged baby off-roaders can sometimes embarrass bigger rivals. On the other hand, a short and narrow wheelbase combined with rugged off-roading suspension can translate into bouncy and noisy on-road performance – very much the weakness of the original Terios.

Fortunately, the second generation model is more well-rounded, even if the start price leapt from the previous car's sub-ten grand figure to £12,725, though it does carry Daihatsu's now standard five-year unlimited mileage warranty plus, for a limited period, five years/45,000 miles' free servicing.

I'm not sure the sole engine option, a 1.5-litre 103bhp petrol unit, is the complete answer; it might be lively and have the potential to average nearly 40mpg, but a diesel

ROAD TEST DAIHATSU TERIOS

■ BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

would deliver better economy and the low down lugging power that rougher conditions require, plus a cheaper road tax bill than the £170/year for the cheapest Terios model.

However, even in petrol form, this second generation Terios continues where the old car left off, with a hardy and rugged character that belies its modest cost, high driving position, a turning circle able to shame a supermini and a body still shorter than a VW Golf.

But where the old car was absurdly crude on-road, the new Terios is far more refined.

In many ways it has become the car the original RAV4 was before Toyota boosted its money-spinning compact SUV (sports utility vehicle) upmarket, except that it has retained off-roading ability in preference to the deft handling of the RAV.

Fixtures and fittings for the Terios are also much improved, with a well-arranged dashboard and standard kit including air con, reverse parking sensors, electric mirrors, electric windows front and rear and remote central locking.

For those who really do need a proper 4x4 on the cheap, the Terios looks like it has slugged its way to the top of the hill.



**SEE MOTORSTV FOR
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BY STEVE LOADER @
yourkenttv.co.uk**

Need a new car? Then visit www.carsforkent.co.uk



USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

FAMILY CARS FROM JAPAN

carsforkent.co.uk

NEED a 'family car', but not keen to run with the herd by opting for a Ford Mondeo or Vauxhall Vectra? Then check out these three used Japanese models – although two are actually built in the UK. Each shows traditional Japanese virtues of generous equipment, reliability and easy ownership, but there is also more space, flair and zest about them than seen in earlier generations. You will also find a good selection of engine packages – including decent diesels – as well as hatchback, saloon and capacious estate body styles.

TOYOTA AVENTIS



TOYOTA'S previous Avensis was a re-worked Carina E with a name change to suggest it was unrelated to one of the most boring family cars of the period. The second generation Avensis launched in 2003 is a different animal. It drives well, has good engines, offers value for money, includes a lot of Lexus refinement technology and plays the 'Made in Britain' card strongly – very well made it was too in a huge modern plant at Burnaston in Derbyshire.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

NISSAN PRIMERA



NISSAN'S final Primera was launched in 2002 and could not contrast more with its predecessors. The teardrop lines made it one of the most distinctive cars in this class, perhaps too much so for some – hastening its demise – but it offers great driving, value and reliability, plus good Renault-sourced turbodiesels for endurance and economy. The Sunderland-built range was streamlined to concentrate on the practical hatchback and the spacious and rather more elegant estate.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

MAZDA 6



MAZDA'S revival on the back of the '6' is well-documented and no exaggeration. This spin-off from the Ford Mondeo inherited that car's excellent chassis, but Mazda engineers instilled a distinctive driver appeal and sharp design inside and outside. The interior carried forward into a whole new line-up of Mazda models, while the space-efficiency of the body is excellent, whatever option you opt for. The diesels are the best buy – petrol units are lively, but coarse.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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yourmedway
yourmaidstone

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yourdoover

FORD FOCUS LX 1.6 01/Y
5dr, Hatchback, Met
Red, FSH, 1 Owner
30,000 Miles, £7999
01234 567890

£7
Lineage
p/wk

Lineage
Approx. 20 words

FORD FOCUS LX 1.6
01/Y, 5dr, Hatchback,
Metallic Red, Full Service
History, 1 Owner, Power
Steering, Elec
Windows, ABS,
30,000 Miles,
01234 567890

£9.50
3x1 Box Ad
p/wk

3x1
Max. 25 words

FORD FOCUS LX 1.6

01/Y, 5dr, Hatchback, Metallic Red, Full Service
1 Owner, Power Steering, Electric Windows
Sunroof, 30,000 Miles. Tel 01234 567890

£22
6x2 photo
p/wk

£7,995.00
6x2
Max. 25 words



Contact us on:
01303 817150

Email: advertising@kosmedia.co.uk

Deadline for advertisements for the newspapers: Friday midday

We can process your payment via telephone, fax, post or email using all major credit cards.



Photographs

You can send in a photograph via email to advertising@kosmedia.co.uk. If you are unsure please telephone one of our advisors on **01303 817150**.

Deadline for sending us photo advertisements is Friday at midday prior to Wednesdays publication.

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Senior & General Appointments 33-35

Forward Care (Residential) Ltd

Providing Residential Care for Adults with Learning Disabilities – Now seeking

Male or Female Support and Senior Support Worker

Vacancies available at our Residential Home in Sittingbourne & Sheerness. NVQ Level 3 required for Senior Support position. Will need to have 6 months experience working with ALD Clean British driving licence required.

Private Occupational Therapist to offer sessional work i.e Art & Craft, Music & Movements, Beauty and Aromatherapy.

Interested candidates should apply in writing enclosing a recent C.V or for further information contact Christine or Lisa Tel: 01795 841220

Hill Farm, 15 Keycol Hill, Sittingbourne Kent ME9 8LZ
Previous Applicants need not apply

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01795 431500

St Nicholas at Wade & Sarre Parish Council (Thanet) wishes to appoint a **part-time, home-based successor to their Parish Clerk/ Responsible Finance Officer** due to forthcoming retirement. Salary will be based on the national scale. Financial, admin and IT skills are required, knowledge of Local Government procedures would be an advantage.
Contact- bernard.clayson@btinternet.com

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Required with experience in computerised accounting systems. Covering payroll including statutory returns to inland revenue. Raising sales invoices and credit control. Knowledge of the CIS systems relating to sub-contractors would be preferred but not essential. Reconciliation of bank statements control nominal ledger up to trial balance maintaining various balance sheets and profit and loss schedules plus adhoc assignments.

All CVs to Bob Casey at
Piper Windows
140 Newington Road, Ramsgate
Kent CT12 6PP



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Abbey Court School "WE GROW PEOPLE"

Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

We are currently looking for a
EARLY YEARS TEACHER
for pupils with severe and profound learning difficulties to commence April 2009
MPS + 2 SEN Points

The school is located in pleasant surroundings and we have educational resources of enviable proportions. This post would suit experienced SLD teachers or newly qualified teachers, or those wishing to gain further experience of SEN.

Comprehensive induction and training will be provided.

Telephone enquiries and informal visits to the school welcomed
This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 30.1.2009

For further details and a job description, please contact Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent, ME2 3SP. (Tel: 01634 338224), stating the position for which you are applying.



Unqualified Tutors

Grade £15,113 - £23,903
37 hours per week

Attendance & Behaviour Service
Project 15, Thanet

This is an innovative alternative curriculum project for disengaged and disaffected KS4 students, involving an engaging and broad curriculum, a new slant on curriculum delivery.

Committed to high quality and genuinely imaginative education, Project 15 is looking for an additional Unqualified Tutor to join this well established, exciting venture.

Applicants for the post will have to provide evidence of effective working with disengaged KS4 students and have a proven commitment to teaching, learning and curriculum innovation.

For an informal discussion about the posts, please call Micheala Clay on 01843 231758.

Ref: CFE/08/0652

Children, Families & Education, 3 year contract,
Tonbridge ARC

The Adolescent Resource Centre (ARC) in Tonbridge is a well established and successful multi-agency provision for young people in the area. Education and Children's Social Services staff lead the project and work with staff from other children's services agencies to provide well rounded support.

Applicants for the post will be able to provide evidence of the ability to work effectively with disaffected young people in Alternative Curriculum education settings. They will also have a recognised teaching qualification or be willing to undertake one in the first year of employment and have a good understanding of the contribution that education can make to ECM outcomes.

For an informal discussion about the post phone Anne Lowry on 07934 508100.

Ref: CFE/08/0650

Both posts are subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

To apply visit www.kent.gov.uk, email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk, or telephone 08458 247 904 or minicom 08458 247 905 (charged at local rate).
Please quote relevant reference number.

Closing date for both posts: 15 January 2009.



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Kent Downs and Marshes has secured £2.25 million from LEADER, a European Community Initiative to support sustainable rural development.

Programme Manager - LEADER

£35,370 - £40,705
Maidstone

Fixed-term contract until the end of June 2013

Managing the successful implementation of the programme including overseeing the Local Development Strategy and managing budgets with accountability for public funding, a key part of your role will be building links with other rural regeneration programmes and liaising with local organisations.

Your background could be in rural development or programme management, but you have a good understanding of relevant legislative frameworks. Used to operating across organisational boundaries and within multi-agency partnerships, you will have strong financial skills and experience of working with external funders. As relationship-building will be vital, exemplary interpersonal and communication skills are expected. Ref: ER/08/0155

Project Officer - LEADER

£22,825 - £26,159
Maidstone

Fixed-term contract until the end of June 2013

Using your experience of community or project development, you will help to deliver this funding to local agriculture, forestry and rural communities.

You will work with individuals, businesses, community groups and other organisations to develop ideas into well-constructed projects that address issues in the Local Development Strategy. Along with appraising projects for funding, you will also facilitate networking and skills acquisition to help deliver them.

You'll need a good knowledge of the land-based sector or rural development issues, coupled with outstanding interpersonal and communication skills and an excellent understanding of project development and partnership working. Ref: ER/08/0157

To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904.
Please quote relevant reference number.

Closing date for both posts: 23 January 2009.

Interviews will take place on the 11th February for the Programme Manager, and 12th February for the Project Officer.



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You may already be qualified to assess people who are working towards NVQs. Or perhaps you combine solid practical experience with NVQs in your subject - and now you're looking for a rewarding new direction.

Either way, this is your chance to help individuals on our growing number of workplace training programmes to gain the qualifications they need. There are opportunities across a range of areas including:

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If you've no assessment experience, we'll give you full training.

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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
required for a small office in Ashford

Computer literate and attention to detail essential. Tasks include order processing, liaison with suppliers, translations, filing.

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Start date: ASAP



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Or email suzy@ctrent.co.uk to send in your CV or request an application form.

Closing date for application 23rd January 2009
www.trents.co.uk

RECEPTIONIST 20 HOURS

required for busy doctor's surgery to cover 2 evenings and 3 mornings. Must be flexible, keyboard skills an advantage but not essential.

Please apply in writing with CV to Mrs Jill Blackman, Practice Manager, Sun Lane Surgery, 5 Sun Lane, Hythe, Kent CT21 5JX

Abbey Court School

"WE GROW PEOPLE"

Abbey Court School, a 'special' school and a 'special' place to work.

We are currently looking for a...

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPIST

to join and enhance our high calibre team.

Medway Scale, Grade B1 £22,664 - £29,628 (pro rata)

Are you committed, motivated and enthusiastic? Does 'Every Child Matter' to you? Can you provide an exceptional Speech and Language therapy service within an educational setting? Are you an effective team member with a professional, flexible approach and a good sense of humour?

If so, you could be the 'SALT' that we are looking for.

Abbey Court is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 4-19 with severe learning difficulties. Working hours are 37 hours p/w, term time only. Candidates should hold a relevant Speech and Language Therapy degree/qualification.

This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure.

For an application pack, please write to/telephone (stating the role for which you are applying): Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent. ME2 3SP (01634 338224)

Please note CV's will not be accepted.

Closing date: 23.1.2009

To advertise in this section ☎ 01303 817040

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We are looking for creative thinkers who can develop copy and concept ideas through to on-screen design. Ideally you will be able to illustrate/scamp out a full brief and idea for potential advertisers and liaise with our other graphic designers or even turn it into a finished on-screen advert.

It will be an advantage to have a good background in copy writing, headlines and marketing skills as well as the ability to understand call-to-action and unique tagline messages. Knowledge of QuarkXPress, Photoshop, Illustrator or Indesign would also be an advantage.

All applicants should include an illustration/scamp of any advert from any local paper, illustrating how this advert could stand out or be portrayed in a way that talks more to its potential consumer than the original advert in the local paper.

We have been recognised nationally for award winning advertising campaigns for our clients, so if you want to be a part of our dynamic creative team in print or online, please send in your CV with a covering letter and your illustration/scamp advert idea to: Paul Stannard, Managing Director, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR or email paul.stannard@kosmedia.co.uk



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TERMS AND CONDITIONS

KOS MEDIA (PUBLISHING) LTD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Advertisements will be accepted only on the express condition that the advertiser warrants that the advertisement does not in any way contravene any existing legislation and in particular the Trade and Description Act 1968 and the Consumer Credit Act 1974.
2. It is the responsibility of all advertisers to ensure that all advertising meets all forms of government legislation and KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (the "media owner") takes no responsibility for liability in errors and omissions to the content of our media.
3. All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.
4. All rates within the annual advertising agreement will be rate protected for 12 months from the first date of publication under the signed agreement.
5. Any unsuitable material posted on any website belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the advertiser or any associated third party will be removed or refused. All passwords and security supplied to the advertiser by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in relation to the use of the posting of material via the media owner's online administration tool will be the responsibility of the advertiser. The advertiser indemnifies KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd against any damages as a result of misuse of these privileges by either the advertiser or any third party given password privileges by the advertiser.
6. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to change passwords intermittently to ensure the overall and ongoing security of its websites within the public domain.
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10. A guarantee of insertion cannot be given and the media owners shall not be liable for any loss or damage caused by any error inaccuracy within your marketing content. In no case shall the total liability of the media owner for any error or omission exceed the price charged for the media owners for that advertising.
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12. Claims for any error or inaccuracy in your media messages with KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be made in writing to the accounts department within 10 days of publication.
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14. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd has the right to cancel the advertiser's annual membership without notice should the advertiser deliberately publish out of date material or content on any of the media owner's online digital platforms. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd will seek to recover, in full, all outstanding invoices in relation to the signed annual membership as a result of the advertiser's negligence in this regard and reserves the right to claim damages for any potential various action via the advertiser.
15. Advertisers are requested to check their advertisements after the first insertion. The media owner will not be responsible for any errors on subsequent insertions, which have not been advised to them in writing.
16. A minimum of one month's notice must be given in writing for any cancellation of the signed annual advertiser's agreement. Upon cancellation, all discounts from KOS Media's standard effective media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009) will be recalculated and adjusted accordingly in line with KOS Media's standard media rate card (effective July 2008-June 2009) and will reflect the revised length of commitment denoted by the advertiser's written cancellation. Any surcharges, refunds or costs in relation to the production of the advertiser's TV commercial for the commitment set out within the advertiser's agreement will be met in full by the advertiser as per KOS Media's standard media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009). Discounts will be repaid and any refunds or surcharges will be paid by either party within 30 days of the advertiser's written cancellation. Any other advertising placed must give a minimum of seven days' written notice and any discounts given for series bookings will be forfeited by the advertiser upon cancellation.
17. Seasonal contracts. Your Professional classified advertisements or any uplift advertising within the annual contract with the advertiser will be invoiced in full - at rate card - on receipt of any written cancellation of this contract within the 12-months.
18. All uplift advertisements must be booked in at least three months in advance of publication and will be subject to availability. All dates booked will be on a first-come, first-served basis.
19. The advertiser must agree to the date and time of filming of any online TV advertising commercial supplied by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd within the advertiser's agreement. (Platinum, Gold, Silver standard of commercial). Should for any reason, the advertiser not be available at the agreed time without giving sufficient notice (at least 48 hours), KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to charge for any further TV production at its standard published hourly rate should the advertiser still wish to use KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's production services to complete its TV commercial or photographic imagery included in the advertiser's agreement. The advertiser will approve and accept that there are only two choices of voice-over and music offered by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Should an advertiser wish to use other voice-overs or non-copyright free music, it is the responsibility of the advertiser to pay the PPS rights should they be required to do so. Any changes to or failure to approve the TV production by the deadlines agreed between both parties will result in KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd being given permission by the advertiser to replace the TV commercial with pictures or stills from a choice of photography supplied by the media owner until the advertiser can supply a TV commercial produced at their own cost and risk outside of this agreement. The advertiser also accepts and agrees that this action would not reduce the value or cost of their membership. Any cost of changes required to the TV commercial throughout the advertiser's agreement will be borne by the advertiser outside of this agreement.
20. Each advertiser accepts that their ranking and position within KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's search engine will be equal to those within their category (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, etc) other than they will be ranked based on the search engine criteria of optimisation within their level (Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze).
21. Any delivery claims made by the advertiser or discount vouchers published within the print or online media of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd and any action as a result of the public or otherwise is the responsibility of the advertiser. Any damages resulting from this via KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be met by the advertiser.
22. a. All credit accounts due for payment shall be notified to the Advertiser by the 30th day following the date of the invoice, time to be of the essence. All sums due to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring shall be paid in full, and the Advertiser shall have no right of set off in any circumstances.
b. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring by the due date, the media owner shall be entitled to suspend all further advertising until payment is received and/or repudiate the contract and make any surcharges for breaking the contract.
c. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the due date, the media owner reserves the right to charge interest on all overdue balances calculated on a daily basis at the rate of two per cent above the minimum lending rate of National Westminster Bank Plc from time to time in force.
d. Notwithstanding anything in these terms and conditions or implied to the contrary, in the event of the Advertiser ceasing to use the services of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.
e. The Advertiser will be liable for all costs incurred by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in the recovery of debts not paid by the due date.
f. Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.
23. Any discount which KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.
24. Advertising Agency commission will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the Newspaper Society, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. This commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.
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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Holiday park is named an Investor in People

A NORTH Kent firm has become the latest to gain an Investors in People award.

Keeping its staff as happy as its customers has led to Ashcroft Coast Holiday Park, near Leysdown on Sheppey, snapping up the award, which provides a framework for improving performance and competitiveness through training and development.

Gary Cook, general manager, said: "Since we started working with Investors in People I hold weekly heads-of-department meetings and they in turn have their own team meetings."

Boats top the charts as they sail to double win

SAILBOAT maker Topper, a familiar name to Kent sailors, has blown away the dark clouds over a stormy economy by tacking off with two major awards at the recent Paris Boat Show.

Its Topaz Vibe won Voiles et Voiliers Magazine's best dinghy 2008, and its Topaz 14 cast off with the Coup de Coeur twin-hull award for best catamaran 2008.

The Ashford-based firm's injection-moulded polypropylene Topper is pretty well established as one of Britain's favourite sailboats and 50,000 have been sold worldwide.

Landlords are at home with outdoor pursuits

ONE of the county's largest independent landlords, the MHS Homes Group, showed it had what it takes when it was victorious in an Institute of Directors' Inter-Team Challenge.

Held at Arena Pursuits overlooking Bewl Water, the challenge tested teams to assess and develop abilities in communication, planning, time management, creativity, decision-making and leadership skills.

The winning team from MHS Homes included Isabelle Pocock, Stuart Maclellan, Frank Barber, Charles Brangwin and Emma Riddington.

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Icons: Ideas fuelling The Kent Innovation Challenge 2009. Search 'innovation'.

We need to make a good job of staffing

■ BY TONY PATEY

EXPERTS are warning business owners not to panic when it comes to staffing levels, amid the gloomy economic expectations for 2009.

The call comes following the publication of what is considered the most comprehensive guide to the UK labour market. It underlined what many had already guessed: a record fall in the demand for staff since the downturn.

The Recruitment and Employment Confederation (REC) and KPMG Report on Jobs said December data indicated further steep reductions in the number of people placed in jobs by recruitment consultancies.

For both permanent and temporary staff, the latest declines were the sharpest recorded to date by the report, produced by Markit Economics.

There was also a major reduction in job vacancies during December. In both the permanent and temporary sectors, demand for staff fell at record rates. Lower vacancies were across all areas of employment with the exception of nursing, medical and care jobs.

It was the third consecutive month of reports of declines in permanent and temporary staff pay. Not surprisingly, anecdotal evidence suggested that with rapidly rising numbers of staff available they had little bargaining power.

Kathy Lloyd, head of people services for KPMG in Gatwick, which covers Kent, said: "These latest figures only serve to confirm the most pessimistic projections for the UK jobs market. They are also a lead indicator for a rapidly declining employment situation which is not yet reflected in the Government's employment statistics."

"One reason for this is that employment legislation - enacted since the last recession - tends to defer the incidence of job losses pending completion of consultation periods."



COST-CUTTING: Redundancies are not the only way to save money... a drop in staff bonuses can also help the situation

"In addition, many companies may have been reluctant to make redundancies before the end of the year, since the cost would have been much higher than the salary savings made over the short period to the year end."

"There is also a risk that many employers, experiencing this process for the first time, will be more reluctant to take on new staff, either to replace leavers in key positions or under the Government's recently announced apprenticeship proposals."

She added: "There are, however, two factors which have not been present in previous recessions and which might moderate the impact on job losses."

"The first is that we have moved toward a bonus culture where a significant part of total pay is a bonus depending on performance and profit. Thus salary cost should fall in time of recession, reducing the need to cut staff."

"The second factor is that the UK has been a magnet for foreign workers for the last five years and recession may mean these people choose to return home, where they can live more cheaply, if work is no longer available."

Kevin Green, chief executive of the REC, said: "The decline in both permanent and temporary appointments in December is the sharpest recorded since the survey began in 1997."

"At a time when the Government is proposing job creation measures, the REC will be seeking urgent meetings with the Government about its proposed removal of the VAT concession in April."

"This change will put an additional £150 million tax on temporary jobs when we should all be working together to create employment opportunities, not taxing them out of existence."



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OPINION: Shane Warne says Rob Key should be captain

Spin king says Key should have got England job

LEGENDARY Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne feels the England and Wales Cricket Board should have installed Kent's Rob Key as England skipper, rather than Andrew Strauss.

The Kent captain was once again linked with the hottest job in world cricket following a sensational week in which Kevin Pietersen jumped before he was pushed and coach Peter Moores was sacked.

Warne, never short of a view or two, wrote in his Times column that he felt the appointment of Strauss was the safe bet and he

CRICKET

instead thought Key should have got the job.

He said: "My choice – if KP really had to go – would have been Rob Key of Kent. I think Key is unlucky not to have played more for England and I would have put him in charge for all three formats.

"He has flair and imagination, a good temperament and is well liked within the game."

The 29-year-old Kent skipper, who was a 25/1 shot for the Test job, is adept at all

forms of the game – leading Kent to the finals of both the Friends Provident Trophy and the Twenty20 last season.

He was also believed to be in the running for the role as one-day and Twenty20 skipper before the ECB plumped again for Strauss and although Key said he would have jumped at the chance to captain his country, he was never awaiting a call.

He said: "I would definitely have taken it of course, I would never turn something like that down. I didn't think I would get it, I wouldn't have put any money on me."

Guernsey project is still on the table

THE people behind the project to bring a team from Guernsey into the Kent League remain confident of joining in time for next season.

The recently renamed Guernsey Athletics FC are looking to raise a six-figure sum in sponsorship before the end of March to get approval from the Football Association. They would then be able to apply to join the Premier Division for the 2009/10 season.

James Blower, a member of Guernsey Athletics' board of directors, has come up with an idea to make it possible for Kent teams to travel. He said: "The model we're looking at is to run it on a fully costed basis, so we would cover the expenses of the Kent teams once they got to Gatwick."

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Watch Kent's premier ice hockey side take on the Cardiff Dragons

Farewell to creator of UK racketball

TRIBUTES have poured in from all over the world following the death of Ian Wright, the creator of racketball in the UK.

The 74-year-old suffered a suspected heart attack on court at his beloved club in Bexley last weekend.

It brought a sudden end to a much-loved figure, well known across Kent, who devoted his life to squash, racketball and tennis. Wright occupied a staggering number of positions across a variety of sports, from club level all the way up to the European Squash Federation, where he was secretary for almost 20 years.

PLEASE SEND YOUR SPORTS STORIES TO SPORTS EDITOR GLENN PEARSON AT glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk



Picture: ADY KERRY

ENGLAND CALLING?: Simon Willis (right) could step into Graham Ford's shoes (left) at Kent if the South African takes up the position of England's head coach

Is Willis the man to step into Ford's shoes at Kent?

CRICKET

■ BY GLENN PEARSON

any of it for his own ego.

"I don't know what would happen if Fordy was to go, it would certainly be a massive blow.

"As players we are trying to get in the England team and it's the same for coaches, we all want to be moving up the ladder and it's the same for them. It's no different for Simon Willis. Obviously things are pretty tight at Kent at the moment and that will dictate a lot of what goes on at the club for the next two years."

Lure

Ford, who joined Kent in 2005 having previously coached Natal and later South Africa, has already turned down India and New Zealand to stay at Canterbury but the lure of coaching England – especially in a year that includes the

Ashes and the Twenty20 World Cup – could be too difficult to turn down.

Willis has worked under Ford as first-team coach for the four seasons he has been at Kent and can understand why he has been courted by international sides.

"It has got to be his record," he said. "Anyone that has ever worked with him knows that he is a top class individual. He is not a tea cup thrower but manages to get his message across so that players know where they stand."

When asked whether he would want the director of cricket role at St Lawrence if Ford were to be lured away, Willis, who did the job in 2004, responded cautiously.

"To be fair I was thrown in at the deep end in my first year and that was quite interesting but I think we will have to wait and see what develops," he said. "Fordy has to be offered the opportunity and then it's a case of whether he takes it or not. There's a lot of water to flow under the bridge yet."

Goodger to the rescue as hitman nets Bengal brace

FOOTBALL

BY GLENN PEARSON

Sporting Bengal 1

All 56

Norton Sports 3

Goodger 75, 85, Price 87



NORTON picked up their first win in three months after three goals in 12 minutes spared their blushes against bottom side Sporting Bengal United.

Bengal's bottom place position look justified in the first 15 minutes as Norton went in search of an opener. Harry Goodger and fellow striker Tom Price had half chances but a mixture of good goalkeeping, lax finishing and bad luck combined to keep the scoreline blank. As the game progressed Bengal came into the game mainly through quick counter attacks. Norton's early passing game became disjointed as the already bone hard ground became even more slippery as darkness approached.

In the last five minutes of the first half, two great stops by Paul West kept Norton in the game.

The officials considered abandoning the game at half-time but decided to continue and



COMING UP WITH THE GOODS: Striker Harry Goodger scored a brace in his side's win over Sporting Bengal

Norton wished they hadn't when eight minutes into the half they conceded a penalty that was stroked home by Abdul Ali.

Norton starting XI



Subs used: Appleton (H Goodger), Sharmar (Clark), Glover (Armstrong)

Norton's management team of Ben Taylor and Roy Clarke then decided to change things, bringing on Kerry Glover in midfield as Norton pushed to get back into the game.

The visitors stepped up their game and equalised with 18 minutes remaining after Harry Goodger's free-kick managed to squeeze past the goalkeeper.

Norton wanted the three points and kept pushing on. On 82 minutes they got their reward when Goodger hit another long shot which deceived the goalkeeper to give his side the lead. With three minutes remaining Tony Clark's powerful cross shot was parried by the keeper and Tom Price was on hand to tap in the third.

It was almost four in injury time when Scott Appleton broke clear, but he was fouled just outside the box. The Bengal defender was sent off and Norton hit the free-kick wide.

Norton return to action on Saturday when they take on third-placed Tunbridge Wells at Winch's Field.

FOOTBALL



Picture: TONY GRAY

NEW SIGNING: Dave Botterill with Justin Luchford

Botterill is in line to make Town debut at Greenwich Borough

FAVERSHAM Town manager Justin Luchford is expecting to have new signing Dave Botterill available for the weekend's clash with Greenwich Borough at Salters Lane.

The Lilywhites have a chance to make third spot their own if they pick up three points and they also have two games in hand on current incumbents, Tunbridge Wells.

Luchford hopes to have Botterill available for selection on Saturday after signing him from Ryman North side Chatham Town.

He said: "Dave Botterill will be in the squad. We left him out last week as a precaution. He is fine now and can't wait to pull on a white shirt. I am looking forward to seeing him play, and I think the fans will like him."

While Damian Abel has rejected a move to Ryman South side Folkestone Invicta, Luchford said he can't guarantee that he will be able to keep all his players if other teams come calling.

He said: "As for next season, I can't tell you. We just have to wait and see. We don't have the luxury of having players on contract, so it's a bit of a free-for-all in the summer, but I will be doing everything possible to keep them all."

After back-to-back wins against Herne Bay and Tunbridge Wells, the Lilywhites boss is confident his side are now capable of competing with teams challenging for the Kent League title.

He said: "I think we have come a long way. I think now we have proved we can compete with the best teams in the league. Whether we can be as consistent as them is another question that only time will answer. I am so pleased for the players as they always give 100 per cent for me and I can't ask for any more than that."

Faversham's game with Holmesdale at the weekend was called off as a result of a frozen pitch.

LEAGUE TABLES

(Not including midweek games)

RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	Cd	Pt
1 Kingstorian	21	13	5	3	+26	44
2 Metropolitan Police	23	11	9	3	+15	42
3 Cray Wanderers	24	12	5	7	+15	41
4 Sittingbourne	22	12	4	6	+6	40
5 Fleet Town	22	10	9	3	+18	39
6 Ashford Town	24	10	9	5	+17	39
7 Dulwich Hamlet (-3)	24	11	7	6	+13	37
8 Worthing	20	10	7	3	+11	37
9 Walton & Hersham	23	10	7	6	+6	37
10 Godalming Town	23	10	6	7	+14	36
11 Merstham	22	9	7	6	+2	34
12 Eastbourne Town	24	9	5	10	+2	32
13 Folkestone Invicta	23	8	8	7	+1	32
14 Croydon Athletic	23	7	6	10	-4	27
15 Whyteleafe	23	7	4	12	-8	25
16 Leatherhead	21	7	4	10	-14	25
17 Burgess Hill Town	22	6	6	10	-4	24
18 Corinthian-Casuals	24	4	8	12	-21	20
19 Chipstead	23	4	8	11	-24	20
20 Whitstable Town	23	6	2	15	-25	20
21 Walton Casuals	23	4	5	14	-19	17
22 Crowboro Athletic	23	3	3	17	-27	12

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

1 Hythe Town	17	13	2	2	24	41
2 Holmesdale	17	12	3	2	24	39
3 Tunbridge Wells	17	11	1	5	11	34
4 Faversham Town	15	10	1	4	28	31
5 Herne Bay	18	10	1	7	5	31
6 Erith Town	16	7	5	4	10	26
7 Erith & Belvedere	15	8	2	5	0	26
8 Greenwich Borough	15	8	1	6	0	25
9 Deal Town	17	6	5	6	5	23
10 VCD Athletic	13	7	1	5	15	22
11 Croydon	14	6	2	6	4	20
12 Sevenoaks Town	16	5	4	7	-5	19
13 Norton Sports	16	6	1	9	-14	19
14 Slade Green	16	5	3	8	-5	18
15 Beckenham Town	18	4	2	12	-8	14
16 Lordswood	16	1	2	13	-24	5
17 Sporting Bengal	18	0	0	18	-70	0

FIXTURES (Saturday): Ryman Division One South, Sittingbourne v Croydon Athletic; Kent League Premier Division, Norton Sports v Tunbridge Wells, Faversham Town v Greenwich Borough

Brickies players will 'have to fight for their shirts'

FOOTBALL

SITTINGBOURNE manager Gary Abbott has warned his players they all have a fight on to keep their place in his in-form side.

The Brickies are unbeaten in seven games and sit in fourth spot, just four points behind leaders Kingstorian.

Defender Ian Varley, who missed the 0-0 draw with Folkestone Invicta last weekend with an ankle injury, is hoping to return but the form of young Billy Manners is likely to keep him out of the team.

Abbott said none of his players are assured of a place and they all have to fight for the shirt and their right to get back into the team.

He said: "I have told the players if they lose their place in the side they will have to fight to get it back. Billy Manners has done well since he came back in and he will keep his place."

The same goes for top scorer Richard Brady who had a less than effective game against Folkestone by his standards. Although he is Abbott's assistant at Bourne Park, the Brickies boss is keen to quash any idea that Brady will walk straight into the side.

"Some may think because he is my assistant that he will always play but I have told him that's not the case. He needs to work harder as he hasn't played well and Ellie Kayembe is waiting and perhaps deserves a chance soon."

Sittingbourne's game with Corinthian Casuals was postponed on Saturday as a result of a frozen pitch and the freezing temperatures cast a doubt over Monday night's fixture at home to Worthing. Visit www.yoursware.co.uk for news from the club.



Picture: CHRIS REAN

STARTING SPOT: Ellie Kayembe could return to the Sittingbourne starting line-up in the next few weeks

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Sunday Lunch Buffet

Take a break from cooking and give yourself a real treat! Our 'help yourself' buffet is a great way to spend Sunday

Adult £8.95
Children (Under 12) £3.95
12:00 Noon - 3.30pm

Valentines bookings now being taken

Monday & Thursday Evening Banquet

One starter one main course
one rice + choose either
a side dish or naan bread
all for only
£11.95

ENJOY THE DELIGHTS OF OUR AWARD WINNING TAKEAWAY MENU

Sample our mouth-watering dishes in the comfort of your own home – order a delivery or come and collect – you'll be glad you did – here's a selection of our fabulous dishes

CONNOISSEUR'S STARTERS

Choose from 9 tantalising dishes including

AMOKHA TIKKA £4.95

Passanda cut of ostrich marinated in spices. Cooked in the tandoori over with mace and paw-paw.

SPICY CRAB CAKE £4.50

Crab meat infused with coconut, crushed chillies and mashed potatoes.

TANDOORI KING PRAWN £4.50

King prawns marinated over light carom seeds.

VEGETARIAN STARTERS

Choose from 6 healthy dishes including

ONION BHAJI £2.50

HARYALI PONEER SHASHLIK £3.50

Cubes of freshly homemade cheese marinated with tomatoes, onions and green peppers and fresh ground spices

TRADITIONAL STARTERS

Choose your favourite dish from a choice of 7 including

TANDOORI CHICKEN £2.95

SHEEK KEBAB £2.95

Skewered mince lamb mixed with chilliers chat massalla

served on a thin fried floppy bread.

CHICKEN OR LAMB TIKKA £2.95

Diced chicken breast or lamb marinated in yoghurt and fenugreek

GOURMET CHOICE

The Gourmet Choice represents the style of cooking known as the "dum pukht" originated in the food courts of the Moghul Emperors and represents the pinnacle of Indian dining - here are some examples

DUM PUKHT BIRIANI £8.95

Aromatic basmati rice cooked with lamb served with cucumber raita

NADAN KURSI CURRY (mild) £6.95

Pieces of chicken cooked in the clay oven served with a mild sauce. Spinach, fresh mint, cashew nut and cream

NALI GOSHT KURMA (medium hot) £10.95

Baby lamb shank cooked in a onion and tomato sauce flavoured with black cardamom served with Pilau rice.

HOUSE SPECIALITIES

A succulent selection of 9 dishes - including

CHICKEN OR LAMB JALFREZI £6.95

A hot dish prepared with fresh ginger, garlic, green chillies, red and green peppers and fresh coriander, cooked in a light gravy.

CHICKEN OR LAMB TIKKA MASSALA £6.95

We present our own exclusive recipe of succulent tikka in a smooth massala sauce.

SPICE LOUNGE SPECIAL BIRIANI £9.95

Cooked with chicken, lamb and prawn served with vegetable curry.

REGIONAL DISHES

Dishes in this section are picked from the different regions of India

SOUTH INDIAN GARLIC CHILLI CHICKEN £6.95

Barbequed pieces of chicken cooked in fresh garlic and chilli sauce

HYDERABADI LAMB ACHARI £6.95

Slightly pickled lamb cooked in a medium to fairly hot sauce

with fresh green herbs and coriander

BEEF XACUTI (fairly hot) £8.95

Very popular bangladeshi dish cooked with a xacuti sauce combined with ground mix spices and chat massalla.

TRADITIONAL MAIN COURSES

Choose from your favourites – here's a selection:

CURRY MADRAS AND VINDALOO

Choose from Chicken or lamb £5.25 - prawn £6.50

King prawn £7.95 Vegetable £4.95

All these dishes are cooked with fresh curry leaves, coriander and ground spices.

KURMA

Choose from Chicken or lamb £5.95 - prawn £6.96

king prawn £8.95 Vegetable £4.95

Cooked with a yoghurt sauce and enriched with mild coconut, redolent or cardamom mace and yogurt cream sauce.

A very smooth and rich dish that is full of colour:

DHANSAK (served with pilau rice)

Choose from chicken or lamb £6.95 - prawn £7.95

king prawn £9.95 vegetable £5.95

All Dhansak dishes are cooked with lentils in a sweet and sour sauce which is fairly hot.

FISH SELECTION

All our fish are locally sourced from Whitstable and Herne Bay on a daily basis - just look at this as a selection of our dishes:

THALI MACHI £10.95

Pan fried sea bass cooked with coconut, tomato and coconut milk served with lemon rice with cashew nuts.

MEEN MOILEY £9.95

Red Snapper cooked with fresh curry leaves, onions, tomato and coconut sauce.

SOFT SHELL CRAB MASSALLA £8.95

Various spices mixed with our chefs mild creamy coconut and cashew nut sauce.

NORTH INDIAN TANDOORI SPECIALITIES

Healthy and earthy tones of our Tandoori dishes is achieved by the use of only fresh herbs and spices in the marinade resulting in a delicious and succulent kebab - served with salad and mint yoghurt

HALF TANDOORI CHICKEN £5.95

CHICKEN OR LAMB TIKKA £5.95

TANDOORI KING PRAWN £9.95

Are just a selection of our 7 dishes

VEGETARIAN OPTIONS

Choose from one of 5 fabulously tasty dishes

SMOKED AUBERGINE £6.95

Aubergine cooked in a clay over flavoured with black cardamom served with vegetable paratha

HARA BARA KOFTA £6.95

Spinach and potato dumpling stuffed with prunes

in a tomato and fenugreek sauce.

GOURMET VEGETABLES

All our vegetables are locally sourced and are all £2.95 per dish including

DHINGI PALAK

Spinach and mushrooms

BAKARA BEGUN

Fried baby Aubergine mixed with ground flour cooked with a

mild cashew nut sauce

GUJRATTI KADDU

Red pumpkin sauted with fennel and onion seeds.

VEGETABLE SIDE DISHES

All your favourites and all at £2.95 per dish including

VEGETABLE CURRY (mixed vegetable curry)

BOMBAY ALOO

The famous potato dish

BHINDI BHAJI

MUSHROOM BHAJI

ALOO GOBI

Potato and cauliflower

RICE AND BREADS AND CLASSICAL INDIAN BREADS

Choose from 10 rice DISHES - from plain steamed rice to lemon rice with cashew nuts - 6 different nan breads together with such favourites as chapattis, raita, papadams or tandoori roti.

10%

DISCOUNT ON COLLECTION
OF ORDERS OVER £10.00 PLUS
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